TOLEDO BLADE

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Poetry.

SONG.

I know not where,
My lady fair,
In river, lake, or sea,
The Isles of Peace may be:
But here at morn, at noon, at night,
With thee, my very soul's delight,
Is peace for me.

I know not where,
My lady fair,
By mountain, plain, or lea,
The Vale of Rest may be:
But here, beneath the sunny skies
That smile upon me from thine eyes,
Is rest for me.

I know not where,
My lady fair,
Beyond what purple sea
The home-gilded Heaven may be:
But here to drink the strains divine
That sing thy soul's response to mine,
Is heaven for me.

A YEAR AGO.

I was so rich a year ago
That every day
A little child looked up to me
And said its play.
I was so very rich because
The child was mine;
I did not think he was lent
A little time.

I dreamed, for him, bright dre ams,
And he?
The castles that he built
Were all for me.
I cannot tell you, if I try,
How gold is bright
The head upon my pillow,
Every night.

I never could begin to tell—
I wished I could—
How sweet this child of mine,
How sweet, how good.
Or half how good I felt myself.
You do not know
How very rich I was
A year ago.

Our Story Teller.

A FROST-BITTEN CLERGYMAN.

"What part do you sing, Mr. Liscombe?"

The brown-eyed organist asked the question with such—with oh, such a charming smile.

Mr. Liscombe was very bashful. He was not accustomed to smiles from pretty young women; he had felt dimly that they were usually inclined to laugh at him. He nervously caressed the flaxen whisker on his pink cheek, and, after opening and closing his mouth once or twice in an ineffectual effort to reply, succeeded in stammering: "Tenor, usually—that is, sometimes. Do you have a ba—bass, Miss Frost?"

Miss Frost had stooped to regain the hymn-book fallen on the floor, and one of the half dozen girls who constituted the choir answered for her: "Mr. Harris used to sing bass."

"The first hymn is the 209th," announced the organist, and leading the singing herself with a light, pretty soprano, which the new tenor presently joined, showing himself possessed of an excellent voice, the rehearsal proceeded.

At the close the girls drew on the numerous wraps made necessary by the keen, biting air of a Northern winter, and saying "Good night," left Miss Frost locking the organ and Mr. Liscombe standing irresolutely in the aisle.

"Do you think you will like Bluff City?" she asked.

"Well—really I—yes I—hope so." He was so painfully embarrassed that the girl quite pitied him.

"You have a beautiful voice," she said gently: "I am so glad you are going to sing with us," raising her eyes with a radiant smile to his face, and then modestly looking to the floor. The warmth of her glance seemed to prevade his entire being. He did not think of moving, nor of a word to say, but gazed steadfastly at the creator of this newfound delight until she said: "Won't you stand by the door, please, while I put out the lights? I know it is wicked, but I am always afraid to be alone in the church in the dark."

He moved mechanically to the door as she extinguished the kerosene lamps. It did not occur to him to assist her; he was occupied with a more momentous thought. Should he—dare he ask to see her home? Would she not think him too bold on so short an acquaintance? He had never in his life escorted a lady, except his mother, anywhere.

"Isn't it cold?" said Miss Frost, closing the door; the church was never locked. "How bright the northern lights are tonight." Bashful Mr. Liscombe could scarcely believe his happiness. She had placed her little mitten in his arm quite as a matter of course, and he was actually walking up the street with that pretty head nearly touching his shoulder.

"I am so much obliged to you for taking the trouble to see me home," she said at her father's gate. "Hasn't this been a pleasant choir-meeting! You must come and see us some time. Good night;" and she vanished.

The little Wisconsin town lay in a curve of the range of bluffs that guard the eastern bank of the Mississippi. Twenty years ago no railroad passed through the village, and the river steamers in summer, the stage lines in winter, gave it communication with the rest of the world.

Mr. Liscombe, assistant rector and teacher of the parish school, had been in the place but one week. He was engaged to take the place of Mr. Harris, lately discovered to be a particularly fierce young wolf in the sheep's clothing of a divinity student, who, until the disclosures so derogatory to his good repute were made, had very successfully conducted the school. He had at first made a most favorable impression both on Dr. Webster, the rector, and the townspeople generally. But when his landlady discovered on his book-shelves books of such a character that she was really ashamed to read a page, and in his table-drawer cigars and a euchre-deck, the citizens seethed with indignation that their children had been exposed to the pernicious influence of such a dissolute deceiver. They were narrow-minded people and in a town where the Methodists and Baptists expelled from their churches such giddy young members as would join in a quadrille, a man preparing himself for the sacred office of a clergyman must stand without shadow of reproach before them.

On the day following his landlady's discoveries only fifteen of his 40 pupils took their seats. He dismissed them, went to the rectory, and resigned his situation. Dr. Webster thought that that apparent necessity might be avoided.

"If you would give up smoking, and give me your cards and translations of George Sand," he urged, "so that I could explain to those people that you care nothing for them and had handed them over to me, I think they would become reconciled to you in a short time."

"No sir," said the young man; "I do not care to be dictated to in my personal habits by the people of Bluff City."

"If you become a clergyman, John, you will find much more trying sacrifices before you than relinquishing French novels and cigars," the rector said rather wearily.

"I have decided not to enter the ministry," said John. "You know how it happened that I ever thought of doing so."

Yes, the doctor knew it had been his dying mother's request, reluctantly complied with from a loving sense of duty to her wishes.

The next morning saw Mr. Harris enthroned on the organ-stool. Dr. Webster, whom he had gone to Dubuque, and soon after announced that the school would reopen under the direction of the Rev. Theodore Liscombe, whose coming, the rector hoped, "would prove a blessing to the school and the parish."

The Sunday following his eventful attendance at choir meeting Mr. Liscombe's mind and eyes rebelliously turned themselves from the service and prayer-book; his glances constantly to the little organ standing below the chancel. And his thoughts! Would he have courage to ask to walk home with her after evening church? And if he did, in what language should he clothe the request? But when, in overcoat and muffler, hat in hand, he emerged from the vestry there was pretty Mattie smiling, almost as if she expected him, and saying, "Won't you lock the organ for me, please, Mr. Liscombe? The key turns so hard, I guess something must be broken." He did not have to "ask;" he walked out by her side as if he belonged there, drinking in every word of her delicious conversation about how difficult it was to keep the girls in the choir, and what a lovely book-mark Kate St. John had made for the Bible on the reading desk. As they approached her home his heart sank; for he thought he must leave her, but she said, "Won't you come in a little while? Father will be so glad to see you."

Capt. Frost sat by the fire scolding his gentle-faced wife. He was an habitual scolder unless strangers were present; but he never found fault with his daughter. She filled the one soft spot in his heart. He had earned his title on the river steamers. Mattie could remember when they lived on the boat all summer and boarded at St. Louis hotels in winter; and Mrs. Frost recalled every day of her life the dreary winter before Mattie was 2 years old, when the captain had been caught at St. Paul by an early closing in of the river, and they had kept house for five long months in the boat frozen into the ice at the foot of the St. Paul levee. And the Captain had stormed day and night at the weather, at the town, at the boat, the boat's owners, at her unfortunate self, and at poor Baby Mattie, who would cry at night and disturb his slumbers. But Mattie never disturbed him now. She always pleased him; he was proud of her pretty face, her musical talent, and of her good sense, which he often publicly boasted he would back against the heads of any two girls in Wisconsin; so now, when she came in introducing Mr. Liscombe, he was quite ready to drop his tirade against his wife and make himself agreeable to the guest.

"Take off your coat and sit down," he said cordially, "and Mat will bring us a bite. So you've come to take Harris's place! Young scamp he was. He dropped in with Mat one evening after choir meeting, and I told my wife he'd turn out bad. I can look straight through a fellow like him."

The fact was, as Mrs. Frost distinctly remembered, that when Mr. Harris first came to the house her husband had pronounced him a fine young fellow whom it was a shame to spoil by making a minister of; but she would as soon have thought of applying a match to her kerosene-can as attracting the attention of the choleric captain to any discrepancies in the opinions he expressed, so she remained discreetly silent, her patient face looking a shade meeker than before.

Mattie came in with the "bite"—mince-pie, apples, bread and milk, and a bologna sausage.

"I used to keep a chunk of bologna in my pocket when I was a boy up in the pilot house learning the river with old Tom Corwin, and I like the taste of it yet," said the captain, filling his capacious mouth. "Yes, sir, I followed the river a good many years, and no boat made better time than the City of Columbus while I was her captain; but I got sick of it, it's an uneasy life, so I settled down here in the lumber business. That's my lumber piled up opposite the church, and you won't find a neater stock in that line this side of Chicago, sir."

He always monopolized the conversation, even when people called expressly to see his wife or daughter, and he continued bragging about himself and even about Mattie, who sat quietly by, until Mr. Liscombe rose, shook hands all round, and departed.

The days and weeks passed. Mr. Liscombe drew his pay regularly, and kept the children in the school-house the allotted hours of the session, but there his usefulness as an instructor seemed to come to an end.

"He doesn't knew whether he's hearing Latin or geography," complained the rector. "The school is going to pieces. A man in love is good for nothing else; I wasn't myself," he added with a smile.

"Do you think Mattie really cares for him?" asked his wife.

"I don't know; she gives him encouragement enough. Ross Arnold is home from Philadelphia for a visit. I heard him ask to see her home last night, but she declined, saying she had an engagement with Liscombe."

Mr. Liscombe had heard her, too; and it almost gave him courage to ask the question that for two months had trembled in his heart and on his lips. But his tongue always refused to do its office, and so, to-night, although he intended to tell her he loved her, he found himself saying: "Were you much acquainted with Harris, Miss Mattie? I used to see him at the divinity school."

Miss Mattie removed her hand from his arm for an instant, but only to take her handkerchief from her pocket, and replied, with sweet emphasis:

"He was a very different person from you, Mr. Liscombe."

The tender inflection of her voice gave him the long-sought courage, "O, Miss Mattie," he cried, determined to say it now if he choked in the attempt, "if you only knew what you have become——"

"Hark!" Mattie turned her head. "Isn't that Kate St. John calling me?"

Yes, it was she, hurrying breathlessly to overtake them. Mr. Liscombe did not like Kate St. John. She was Mattie's very intimate friend, and had interrupted so many tete-a-tetes that he dreaded the sound of her voice. She was a telegraph operator and boarded one door above Capt. Frost's. Mattie often went to the office to be company for her in the evening, sitting out of sight behind the wire screen until 8 o'clock, when Kate was relieved from duty by the night operator.

The days grew warmer and the ice went out of the river, but it was still heaped up in great, broken sheets in the lake, and it might be several days before a boat would venture through.

"To-morrow is my eighteenth birthday," said Mattie, as they walked home from church. Mr. Liscombe had been telling her important news; he had just received an appointment to a parish in the eastern part of the state, but would not take his departure until Easter. Only one thought was in his mind—that he would take her with him to his new home. He had never yet declared his passion—but her birthday! He would present her with a volume of Tennyson with such tender passages marked that she could not help but understand him.

Capt. Frost was out of town; he had gone up to the pineries to see about some timber, and his wife, taking advantage of his absence, had driven over to Pala View, a village six miles distant to spend a few days with an old friend, leaving Mattie to keep the house and sleep with her old friend Kate. It did not look like a very brilliant opportunity for knowledge, but the casual visitants to entertain on the way they always did, and Mattie had kept house, and, with the help of the long-haired girl, had learned to make bread, and had even ventured to try her hand at pies. She frequently stopped to see if he had the first of hymns or to tell him that choir meeting would be a half hour earlier or later than usual to oblige one of the girls. But no errand of this nature brought her to-day. He thought she seemed agitated as he stepped into the vestibule, and, without waiting for him to speak, she said:

"Mr. Liscombe, will you do me a great favor?"

"I will do anything in the world for you," he replied earnestly, for once forgetting his bashfulness.

"Then will you meet me in the church to-night at 7 o'clock, and not tell a single soul?"

"In the church at 7 o'clock. Yes, I will be there," he said.

"Be sure," she cried almost breathlessly; "don't make any mistake," and moved away, but turned back to add: "Remember, you must not tell any one at all."

What could it be? Was she made desperate by the news of his approaching departure and would tell him that she could not bear him to leave her? His gentle heart was filled with dismay at the thought of causing her pain, but if she only would take the initiative and say she loved him, how inexpressibly relieved Mr. Liscombe would be.

He was promptly in the church at the hour she had designated, and, lighting one small lamp, waited quite happy and confident for her to come and bring his fate.

A long, deep steam-whistle broke the quiet of the evening. "A boat has gotten through the lake," said Mr. Liscombe. Immediately there was a din of shouts and hurrahs. The first boat through was a great event, and almost the entire populace rushed from their houses and down to the levee to welcome the first break in their long, monotonous winter. But all the boats on the Mississippi would not have drawn Mr. Liscombe from his station in the church, watching to see the door open and the mistress of his heart appear. It did open—she came, but to his sudden dismay she was not alone. Was he mistaken? Could that be tall, handsome John Harris? Close behind came Kate St. John and a stranger.

Mattie was very pale, but her eyes shone with a light never seen there before. Even then Mr. Liscombe could think he had never seen her so beautiful.

"Mr. Liscombe," she cried, "you promised to do me a favor."

"How do you do, Mr. Liscombe," said John Harris. "I have come to ask you to marry me to Miss Frost."

"Marry *you*!" gasped the young clergyman.

"Certainly, and we are in a hurry, too."

"You haven't any license," he faltered.

"No licenses are required in Wisconsin," "No licenses are required in Wisconsin," "No licenses are required in Wisconsin," "No licenses are required in Wisconsin," proclaimed four voices in unison

"Miss Frost isn't of age," he wailed, piteously.

"Isn't to-day my 18th birthday?" asked Mattie, severely.

He thought of the underlined copy of Tennyson he had sent her that morning, and great drops of perspiration covered his face.

"Come, Mr. Liscombe," said the bridegroom impatiently, "there is no reason why you should not marry us; we are in great haste," and taking a prayer-book from a pew, opened at the marriage ceremony, handed it to him. "Please begin at once," he said, authoritatively.

The clergyman could see no way of escape, so he tremulously read the solemn service that made the girl he had come prepared to clasp to his heart the wife of another man. John Harris kissed his bride, led the way to the vestry, and, holding the lamp in his hand, bade Mr. Liscombe fill out the blank marriage certificate he took from his pocket. Kate St. John briskly signed her name as witness, and underneath hers the stranger placed his autograph, "Philip Sherwin, clerk str. Montague."

"Thank you, Mr. Liscombe," said John, leaving a crisp $5 in his limp grasp.

"Good-by, Mr. Liscombe," Mattie was gracious to the last. "I shall never forget your kindness, nor how good you have been to me this winter."

"Good-by," whispered Kate. "I would like to go down with you, but I had better stay here and keep Mr. Liscombe quiet a little while."

John, his wife, and Mr. Sherwin walked hastily to the river, avoiding the well-lighted streets. The steamer's whistle sounded long and loud. "That means me," said Mr. Sherwin, laughing. "The Captain's getting impatient."

There was a crowd about the levee and Mattie trembled with excitement as she stepped on to the plank leading to the deck of the Montague, but she was closely cloaked and veiled and had passed twenty acquaintances without their recognition. As the whistle again was heard, and the boat swung around to the middle of the river, a small boy said: "Mr. Harris got on the boat here. He had his hat over his face, but I knowed him."

"I suppose you will all think that I have done worse than Mattie," began Kate, "but I have helped her all the time and I am glad of it."

"All the time!" repeated Mr. Liscombe.

"Yes, they were engaged before Mr. Harris went away. He got a situation in a telegraph office in Dubuque. He learned telegraphy when he was a boy, so all he had to do was to send messages to Mattie through me and I answered them for her."

"Deceived her parents," groaned her listener.

"O, well, she was sorry to deceive her mother, but her father—I really believe that the Captain would have killed her if he had known that she was engaged to John. This morning," she continued, "he sent a message that he would be up on this boat some time between 7 and 9, and for Mattie to have you here ready to marry them——"

"He ready!" It was almost a moan.

"So that telegrams sent to stop them, or any fussing of that kind, could not make any trouble. And the clerk of the Montague, Mr. Sherwin, is a friend of John's, and he came up to the church with us, so that if anything had occurred to detain them the boat would not go on without them. But it has all come out splendidly, and there's the whistle. They are gone now. Good-night."

At Easter Mr. Liscombe went to his new parish. There was a young lady at the organ, but he never looked at her; he was shyer than ever of pretty girls.

A year from the following summer Kate visited Mattie. She had long since left the telegraph office to keep the books of a wholesale clothing house. Mattie looked very pretty and happy, though somewhat older; but she no longer played in church—she had to stay home to take care of the baby.

The Camel.

The camel has twice the carrying power of an ox. With an ordinary load of 400 pounds he can travel twelve to fourteen miles a day. Without water going fourteen miles a day. They are at work at five years old, but their strength begins to decline at 30, although they live usually until 40. They are often "untamed" after the "taming" has been done. The Tartars have herds of these animals, often 1,000 belonging to one master. They were introduced in small numbers into Texas, but the camel quickly showed his superiority to the mule, and it is probable that in a few years camels will be found in large numbers on the plains of Texas. Camels are also used in Australia, and it is said that they are doing well there.

Humor.

SHE WANTED "THE BEST."

How She Got It After She Had Scared the Grocer.

A buxom, matronly looking woman, accompanied by a lad about 17, entered a grocery store, on Saturday evening, in the neighborhood of 29th street and 3d avenue.

"Vat vas it you vant alretty?" queried the clerk, a ruddy-faced German with a mild blue eye.

"'Let's see your butter."

"By graxhus, we joost got bully budder, and for feefdy cents pi der pound."

"Well, let's see it."

Several samples were produced.

"Dot vos funf-und-dreizig, dot funf-und viersig, und dot vos funfzehn ceads pi der bound. B'raps you like to bite sum of dem dings," handing the woman a cheese scoop to taste the three samples.

She looked at them, tasted them, and smelled them, but none appeared to give her any great amount of satisfaction.

"And this is the best, is it?" pointing to the 50 cent article.

"Dot vos the beshtest budder it vos possible to make from New Yarsey. Dot gow vot make dot budder from, pi jiminy, am vorth fife tousand dollars effery time."

"You are quite sure it's the best butter?"

"If dot vos not der very beshtest dot can't be made I makes you a bresent mit the whole shtore," persisted the blue-eyed youth.

"Then let me have a half a pound of it," and the woman planked down a quarter. "Tie it up securely, as I have some distance to go."

He did as requested.

"Now let's have one of your cards, because I've walked nearly all over Yorkville trying to find a place where I can buy good, honest butter."

The clerk, anticipating a possibly good customer, handed out a card.

"Now Johnny," turning to the lad, "just write the boss's name on the wrapper, and let me see, I think, it's just about 9 o'clock. Put down the time, too."

The proprietor of the store pricked up his ears like a mule, as he saw the deliberate manner in which the affair proceeded. "See here, my man," remarked the purchaser, "I'm not sure whether you know it or not, but there's a law which fines people $100 for selling stuff that some grocers call butter. I hope you're not one of 'em. If you are you'll hear from me, sure." Then she gave the store door a bang and waited on the corner for the next up-town car.

Just as she signaled the driver the German youth overtook her, and, shoving a quarter in the boy's hand, said:

"Der boss tole me to gif yer mudder dot money. May be dot vos de wrong gow dot make dot budder."—*New York Star.*

A Photo-Gravure.

Jones was up in the most remote mountain country, with his camera, in July. Jones is very fond of his camera. It cannot be as truly said that his camera is fond of him, for it leads him into all sorts of plights. For example, it made him frighten a good old country woman into a chill in midsummer.

He had just been taking some beautiful hits, and was giving the mysterious after-touches to his work with the satisfaction of a connoisseur, when the good old country woman came down the road and fell into dialogue with Jones, as follows:

G. O. C. W.—"What be you goin' ter shoot, mister?"

JONES.—"Nothing, madam. This is not a gun."

G. O. C. W.—"Sho! Yes 'tis."

Jones (seeing her picturesque availability, and turning suddenly to get an instantaneous impression.)—"Stand still! don't move!"

A moment later he glanced up to see what was the matter. His subject stood transfixed with horror, her face as white as a sheet.

Jones.—"Don't be alarmed, madam. It won't hurt you. Pray compose your features."

G. O. C. W. (trembling and stammering.)—"Oh, don't let yer cannon go off!"

Jones (reassuringly.) — "Pray look pleased; you will make such a hit!"

At this, terrified nature and the instinct of self-preservation helped the frightened woman to totter out of range of the deathly instrument. But, like a true female Yankee, she gasped:

"What's yer name? Who be ye? What ye doin' with that ere blunderbuss?"

Jones (politely doffing his hat).—"Madam, I am an amateur."

G. O. C. W.—"A what?"

Jones—"An amateur, madam."

The look of startled terror on the face of the G. O. C. W. changed instantly. She cast one comprehensive look of withering contempt, holy horror, and righteous disgust upon him, gathered her petticoats about her, and ran like a yacht before a breeze, as fast as her legs would carry her down the road, across the brook, and out of sight. She never even deigned to look back.

And now Jones is wondering what upon earth she thinks that an amateur is.—*Outing for January.*

A Sigh for the Frontier of Old.

An old-timer once said to me: "I've about decided, Bill, that the West is a matter of history. When we cooked our grub over a sage brush fire we could get fat and hunt Indians, but now we fill our digesters with the cold pisen and pewter of the canned peach; we go to a big tavern and stick a towel under our chin, and eat pie with a fork, and heat up our carkisses with anticrist coal, and what do we amount to? Nuthin'! I used to chase Indians all day, and eat raw salt pork at night, bekus I dassent build a fire, and still I felt better than I do now with a wad of tin-can solder in my stummick and a homesick feeling in my weather beaten breast.

"No, we don't have the fun we used to. We have more swarees and sciatic and one blooming thing and another of that kind, but we don't get one snort of pure air and appetite in a year. They're bringin' in the blamed telephones now, and malaria and nigue, old sledge and fun might as well skip out. There ain't no frontier any more. All we've got left is the old frontier jonse and the rheumatiz of '49."—*Bill Nye.*

Hadn't Much Go.

It was almost midnight; the hands of the clock were toiling painfully around their circuit; the maidens yawned and incidentally remarked that it was growing late, but the youth kept his seat.

"Miranda," he said at length, "I have made up my mind to ask you if you will be my wife."

"I don't know," she answered. "You seem to talk clearly, and energy is an important thing in a young man who undertakes the responsibility of supporting a wife."

"Of course, but why do you think I look energetic?"

"Because you don't seem to be too tired to get up and go home."

"Hadn't you better consult your father?"

"Hadn't you consulted your mother?"

"Hadn't you spoken to her?"

"Hadn't you asked her?"

"Hadn't you——"

"Hadn't you——"

"Hadn't you——

SLAVERY IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

Paper Read before the New Century Club, by S. R. Reed, of the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, December 12, 1884.

SLAVERY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL ORDER.

We shall fail to comprehend the political power which the slave masters have swayed in America, if we are unmindful of the universal law that slavery is the natural social order. Freedom is an artificial state. It is a fight against nature, as civilization is in all those latitudes that have given highest development of man. Nor does emancipation by law abolish slavery. The masses are always seeking a master. The rule of the few is the rule of the capable. It is the survival of the fittest—nature's great law of elevation of species. The rule of the majority upturns the natural order. It puts the bottom on top. Of all rules it is the most unnatural, irrational, incapable and degrading. That it does not utterly destroy, is because it is overruled by the universal law, that the masses are always led by the few.

The world has not yet proved that free society is self-perpetuating. It is an experiment. Even a whole century is a mere dot in the evolution of creation. The more popular the government, the more it runs to anarchy and degradation. Democracies are always looking for the man on horseback.

Look at the state of the laborers in what is called freedom. Everywhere they are at war with their own subsistence. They are governed absolutely by a majority of themselves in their unions. Think of subjecting one's livelihood, and chance of getting on by superior ability and energy, to a vote of the majority! The conflict between labor and capital is irrepressible. Does not its present state, and the way it is destroying both labor and capital, give strong support to the old economists who held that there is no and that the only harmonious relation of capital and labor is that capital shall own the laborer?

SLAVERY THE DIVINE ORDER.

To say that slavery is the natural order, is the same as to say that it is the divine order. Slavery is manifestly scriptural. Whenever the world has been washed out by a flood, because it is given to the bad, and only one family was saved for seed, and all was ready to begin right, Noah founded slavery by an inverted blessing on the posterity of one of his three sons. This started the new world on the right foundation. The blessings and curses of the patriarchs were inspired judgments, and they stood for all time.

The circumstance that Noah was drunk did no more injure the validity of his curse of Ham's posterity than did the cheat which Jacob practiced upon Isaac to steal the blessing meant for Esau impair the validity of that. Only in wicked human affairs does fraud vitiate a contract and intoxication plead irresponsibility. And Noah's cursing served a valuable purpose. In his decrepitude he was naked. Then by the same speech he established slavery, laid the foundation of the Democratic party, and "clothed himself with curses as with a garment."

Nor was servitude limited to Ham's posterity. Except in America there has been no difference between Shem, Ham and Japheth in this matter. But American slaveholders, ignoring all the rest of the scriptures, planted their right on Noah's curse of Canaan. This was to them more precious than all the rest of the Bible. Forty years ago the American churches believed religiously that negro slavery was according to the will of the Jewish Jehovah, as given in Noah's curse of Ham's posterity. They had the Bible for it. To deny it was to be an infidel. Moses, speaking of Jehovah's word, gave laws for slavery—which, however, made no distinction of race. Jesus enslaved the captives of war that he did not kill.

In the natural state, war supports war by enslaving the captives. Great Cæsar knew much of this and supported his great campaigns by selling the captives. We must bear in mind that the political possession which the slave-masters had in this nation was supported by as firm a belief in the rightfulness and natural and divine order of slavery as in the rightfulness of the relation of man and wife, parents and children.

SLAVEHOLDING WORKS NOT UP TO THE FAITH.

The American slaveholders did not at first come up to the height of this divine order of slavery. They had not retained the fullness of the blessing. Besides, the rebellion against the British sovereign had filled the land with radical doctrines which struck the foundation of the social order. Jefferson put this radicalism into his declaration of independence, saying that all are created equal, and that man may not be governed without his consent. These doctrines have been sown broadcast by the tracts of Thomas Paine. Liberty is always running to social anarchy. This is the reason why the common instinct shudders at the terms: Free Thought, Free Inquiry, Free Trade. Besides, they did not know the value of slavery. Not till cotton had removed the scales from their eyes did they realize the divine gospel of slavery. They were unfaithful when they allowed slavery to be excluded from the territory north and west of the Ohio. This conceded that slavery was wrong, and might be prohibited by law. Again, they were unfaithful when they allowed a section in the national Constitution recognizing the power in Congress to forbid the importation of slaves.

The African slave trade was the best part of slavery. It brought the heathen here, and saved their souls. "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" The Africans got the best end of the bargain. They were Christianized, and their souls were saved, in exchange for their labor and increase. Yet it was profitable to the godliness of the masters, and the African slave trade was the only truly successful foreign missionary enterprise that was ever undertaken.

But besides the weakness of faith, which supposed that slavery would die of itself, and that the people only to execute the curse on Canaan would terminate, the light and genteel occupation of slave-breeding, in Virginia, assisted to put in this bar to the importation of Africans. It was by way of protecting home industry. In this form did the subtle serpent, Protection, first enter our free trade garden. This was the first protection to our infant manufactures. For a long time the slaveholders felt no alarm for the future of slavery. They could indulge in colonization schemes, and could see anti-slavery societies formed without any concern, thinking it all in the line of the eventual extinction of slavery. The acquisition of the great country called Louisiana, in 1803, gained an indefinite number of states to slavery, to keep its preponderance in the Senate. But it was made for general political reasons, and in the natural ambition and love of expansion of empire, and in the interest of territorial completeness and unity. If any Southern states even thought of it as in the interest of slavery, they did not make this any argument public.

The acquisition of Florida in 1819 gained a future State to slavery. The acquisition was good for general reasons, but the great moving cause was that Florida was a harbor for fugitive slaves. But the southern statesmen had now awakened to the inroad they had allowed to be made in slave territory by the exclusion of slaves from the N. W. territory, and were entering on their strong and successful course of propagandism.

POLITICAL ABILITY OF THE SLAVEHOLDING CLASS.

However much their cause may be condemned, we must concede their ability. No governing class more capable than the slaveholders ever sprang up in a democracy. They who believe that aristocracy is an elevating social and political relation; that one great man does more to lift up the race than any number of mediocrities; that the science of government is great and demands high intelligence, which only the few can have; that democracy is a leveling down, found slavery a potent foundation for an aristocracy.

After the class of the gentry of the old school, who founded our government, died out, the slaveholders constituted the governing aristocracy. When educated at the North they made a fine aristocracy. They retained the manners of the English landlords. Life on plantations, the habit of ruling men, and their superiority in social station over the nonslaveholding class, gave them a lordly and imperious bearing. Having leisure for politics, and by their social power a steadiness of tenure in the national legislature, which was not the custom in the North, they became experienced in public affairs. Thus as a class they were more capable than the northern members in statesmanship.

Perhaps it was only a sectional interest which led them to the three principles of political economy—specie money, free trade, direct taxation. Perhaps it was because of their mistaken belief that the South consumed the most of the manufactured goods, that they were for a tariff for revenue only—which they accepted, while still clinging in theory to free trade and direct taxation—and for economy in public expenditure. At any rate, the Southern members as a rule were superior to the Northern in public affairs. Their extinction by the rebellion was a public loss. And it took the brains out of the Democratic party.

SOCIAL AND TRADE INFLUENCE OF SLAVERY.

The products and consumption of slavery were a very large element in our commerce. The cotton product employed a great shipping and required a great return in European and Northern goods and provisions. Northern merchants were the factors of this commerce and the owners of the ships. Northern capital made and moved the crop. The commercial and social relations between the sections were intimate. Trade, social intercourse, wealth, fashion, politics, the church, Jehovah and the devil all were combined to secure and propagate slavery.

THE OPENING TERRITORIAL CONFLICT.

The first open conflict over the territorial extension of slavery was raised upon the organization of the territory of Arkansas. That part of the Louisiana territory lying north of the state of Louisiana had been organized as the territory of Missouri. In 1819 a bill was brought in to form the territory of Arkansas, of so much as lies north of Louisiana and south of the line of 36° 30', making that the southern boundary of Missouri. An attempt to exclude slavery from Arkansas was defeated—ten northern members voting with the South. Then the Missouri bill was brought in.

The conflict over the question of excluding slavery from Missouri delayed her admission for two years. The influence of Pres. Monroe and of Ex-Presidents Jefferson and Madison was exercised against the exclusion of slavery from this which, by latitude, might be called a Northern state, and subject to the same reason that excluded slavery from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the rest of the Northwest territory. The conflict was attended by southern threats to dissolve the Union. The admission was at length carried by a measure called a compromise, introduced by Henry Clay.

By this compromise Missouri was to be admitted as a slave state, but slavery was to be excluded from the territory west of Missouri on the same parallel north of the line of 36° 30'. The usual contingent from the new states, of those whom John Randolph, for their subserviency to slavery, called Doughfaces, voted to carry this bill to extend slavery into new Northern territory. It caused much feeling in the Northern people, who now realized that the slave power, which now began to be the political power of the slave lords—was paramount in the nation, and that it had entered upon a crusade of propagandism.

THE TEXAS CONSPIRACY.

the next great territorial gain for slavery was by the annexation of Texas. The natural desire for expansion and empire would make this desirable. But Texas was stolen from Mexico, and we were the instigator of the thief and the receiver of the theft. And it was openly and avowedly to extend slavery into free territory, to preserve its political supremacy in the nation. Filibusters from the Southwest migrated to Texas, encouraged by politicians. A strange adventurer, Samuel Houston, who had been naturalized among the Indians, and made a chief, and had returned to civilization, went to Texas in 1833 and became a leader in the conspiracy.

They formed a state constitution that year, for erection into a state of the Republic of Mexico, and in 1835 proclaimed secession and independence. President Santa Anna came with 5,000 troops. Houston retreated. But while the Mexican forces were crossing the San Jacinto river, Houston surprised and routed the part which had crossed, and took Santa Anna prisoner. He made a treaty with Houston, agreeing to withdraw the rest of his army, and acknowledge the independence of Texas. Some savage massacres had been before this, and Santa Anna was probably under fear for his life. This treaty, made by a prisoner, could not bind Mexico, and the war nominally continued. But the fact of independence was gained by this easy victory over a small detachment, and it was strengthened by immigration from the United States.

THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS.

Our government quickly recognized Texas as an independent nation. The Texas minister in 1837—Van Buren being President—made the request for entry into the United States, but as this would adopt a war with Mexico it was declined. But active intrigue went on in the South to promote annexation. This bold aggression of the slave power, and the piratical way of it, aroused great opposition in the North. But this spread of empire had elements of popularity which weakened public men, and in the nature of things it was not possible that gold could stand such temptation.

After the death of Pres. Harrison in 1841, acting-President Tyler became became an active instrument in the annexation intrigue, which was not carried out till after the next election of electors of president. Before the nominations for that election, Henry Clay had written a letter against annexation, as bad faith to Mexico, and as impolitic because of the great opposition to it in the North. After he was nominated he wrote a letter in favor of annexation on fair terms. Pres. Van Buren was the leading candidate in the Democratic convention, but he had written a letter against annexation, because of which he was prevented by a new rule, requiring a vote of two-thirds to nominate, which was then and there invented for this purpose, and James K. Polk, of Tennessee, was nominated, who had been a warm supporter of annexation and of the slave power.

Clay's two letters cut him on both sides, and Polk was elected. Before he was installed the last session of Congress in Tyler's term took up the annexation project with determination. All motions to exclude slavery from any part of the territory were voted down. At length resolutions were adopted declaring the consent of Congress to annexation, the conditions being that Texas was to transmit to the President evidence of her consent, and a copy of her state constitution, and was to retain all the Mexican public lands, and to be allowed to set off four other states, to be admitted when they had the requisite population. The original thirteen states had ceded all their lands, making one vast public domain, but Texas was to keep the public lands that belonged to Mexico.

These conditions were so extraordinary that a stratagem was made to cloak them. This was in the form of an alternative resolution authorizing the President to open negotiations for annexation, the terms to be submitted to the next Congress. They that wanted to be fooled, or that wanted a cover, pretended to think that acting Pres. Tyler would take this alternative, and leave the whole affair to the next Congress. But Texas was willing and waiting, and Tyler forestalled all by dispatching a messenger to get her consent according to the first terms. Thus he had the glory of fixing annexation before Polk came in.

But there was a meaner deception than this. It was in the form of a pretense of a concession to freedom, by a stipulation that in such of the territory of Texas as lay north of the latitude of 36° 30', the new states should be admitted with or without slavery, as the inhabitants might desire. Texas never owned a foot of land north of that line. This was a trick to set up for her a claim to Mexico, the meaning of which will appear further along.

Thus was one state at present and four states in the future gained to the slave power to keep its preponderence in the Senate. And these were gained out of her territory, for Illinois had abolished slavery some 25 years before. Said Henry A. Wise, a Whig, in arguing the necessity of this annexation, to secure slavery and all which it implied:

"True, if Iowa be added on the one side, Florida will be added on the other. But there the equation would stop. Let one more Northern state be added, and the equilibrium is gone—gone forever. The balance of interests is gone—the safe-guard of American property—of the American Constitution—of the American union, vanished into thin air."

And more of the same fearful sort. What a remarkable Republic, which would be thrown into everlasting smash by the admission of a free state without a slave state to balance it! Yet he was sincere, and that idea was paramount in our politics. Nothing but slavery was constitutional in that good old time. Freedom could not be made constitutional save by a preponderating balance of slavery.

SLAVERY AND MANIFEST DESTINY.

In those times a tone was created in politics which scoffed at the idea that nations should have a conscience or be bound by morals. Filibusterism to steal territory for slavery was encouraged in all the South, and was countenanced by the northern Democrats. The doctrine of manifest destiny was proclaimed as the principle of this Republic, by which it had the right because it had the power to seize the territory of other American republics. The great Republic was boldly proclaimed to be a great pirate. And yet it was not above the practice of the sneak-thief in promoting filibustering expeditions to steal territory for annexation. The national conscience was debauched in the glittering name of manifest destiny. Slavery was to absorb the whole continent and the neighboring islands. Yet it meant only slavery. For it was generous in giving away large territory to Great Britain on our northeast and northwest, and it made no effort to gain the friendship of the Canadians. Our title was good to the whole of Oregon, up the line of 54° 40'. Yet that territory for an empire was easily given up. Slavery was not only the Constitution and Union, but was the limit of expansion.

THE INVASION OF MEXICO.

But the end was not yet of the gain of slave states by the annexation of Texas. The pious Polk trumped the trick of the pious Tyler by setting up a false claim on the part of Texas to a boundary which took in a large territory in Mexico. The line of the Nueces river had of old been established as the boundary of Texas. Polk now invented a claim to the Rio Grande, taking 2,000 miles of Mexican territory in New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Tamaulipas.

The state of war still continued between Mexico and Texas—though in a state of suspended animation—when the annexation was accomplished. But by decent negotiation the consent of Mexico could have been obtained; and this nation could have afforded her a money indemnity. The fact of annexation was consummated by Tyler, and the formal ratifications were in due time executed on both sides;—that by Congress being at the beginning of the 19th Congress in 1845. Yet our commercial intercourse with Mexico went on as before, our ships freely entering her ports.

But the administration—Mugrey, of New York, being secretary of War—ordered our disposable troops, about 1,500, to assemble on the western boundary of Texas, under Gen. Zachary Taylor, to defend the country "to the extent that it had been occupied by the people of Texas." In accordance with this Gen. Taylor stopped at the Neuces. Hints were given him to advance to the Rio Grande, but he did not take them. At length he received a positive order from Pres. Polk, and he marched on Mexican territory more than a hundred miles to the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoras, through a country in which the Mexican laws were in undisturbed operation.

The Mexican general notified him to return and await the issue of the pending question relative to Texas. Gen. Taylor answered that he was acting under orders. The Mexican officer warned him that his refusal would be regarded as a declaration of war. About a month after this Gen. Arista crossed the river with a force of 6,000 and attacked Gen. Taylor—whose force had now been increased to 2,300—at Palo Alto, and was badly defeated. This war spirit was excited by the taste of blood and victory. Polk sent a message stating the lie that Mexicans had invaded our territory, and shed the blood of our citizens on our own soil.

Congress rose to the lie by resolving that war existed by the act of Mexico, and by calling for 50,000 volunteers and appropriating ten millions, which was only a beginning of this costly war. This was my first low estimate a President may make war, under a constitution which strictly confers on Congress the war-making power. And this was by the party of strict construction of the constitution. But the strictness was only for freedom, while for slavery there were no constitutional limitations. Slavery was the divine order, and was above human laws.

Mexico was weak because of an excess of state rights and an incapable people. Our military successes, under the lead of the Whig Generals Scott and Taylor, were so brilliant that the jealous administration tried to cripple them. Mexico was conquered; our armies were in her capital and in her seaports, levying military contributions and collecting customs. But the administration was vacant as to its intentions. Gen. Scott was for peace, and Mexico came to regard him as her benefactor. He says in his memoirs that Polk had a design to annex all of Mexico.

At length a special agent, Mr. Nicholas Trist, whom Polk had sent to Mexico to take the negotiations out of the hands of Gen. Scott, but who eventually came to a good understanding with him, took the bit in his teeth and negotiated a treaty and sent it home, much to the disgust of Polk, although it acquired large territories; but he felt constrained to submit it to the Senate, which ratified it. By this treaty we acquired New Mexico, Utah, Arizona and California. But Mr. Trist, who negotiated all this, was treacherous, because Polk had ulterior designs which he did not venture to reveal to the country.

THE WILMOT PROVISO.

That all this high-handed course to gain territory for slavery, and its complete success in gaining territory, failed of its object seems incredible. But this avowed purpose to acquire free countries for slavery, and the bold aggression of the war, stirred up a fire in the rear in the form of the Wilmot proviso, introduced by David Wilmot, a Democrat, of Pennsylvania. In the session in which the war was adopted, a bill was introduced to place two millions in the President's hands to be used in his discretion in making a treaty. Wilmot moved a proviso to this bill that slavery should never exist in any territory acquired from Mexico.

This proviso was adopted in committee of the whole, only three northern Democrats passing through the tellers to vote no. It promptly passed the House and was lost with the bill in the closing moments of the session without coming to a vote. The proviso was brought up again at the next session and again passed the House, but was never adopted by Congress. But the subsequent result was that the attempt to create territorial governments for New Mexico and California was defeated by the holding of this proviso over them. Because of this, California was kept under military government.

In spite of all the efforts of the administration and of the army influence and of the southern bullies that were sent there, the emigration from the free states defeated the purpose to make two slave states of California, by forming a free state constitution and asking admission.

The pro-slavery crusade worked badly in another way. For military glory, added to the popular opposition to this spread of slavery, elected the Whig General Taylor President. The regular Democratic nominee, Mr. Cass, was opposed by the Democratic Ex-Pres. Martin Van Buren, on the platform of opposition to any extension of slavery.

The new House of Representatives, after a long struggle over the election of Speaker, adopted the plurality rule, by which Howell Cobb, of Ga., a Democrat, was chosen. Pres. Taylor used his influence in favor of the formation of a free state of California, and a free territory of New Mexico; but the slave power refused to admit California as a free state, and refused to authorize a territorial government for Mexico, because the Wilmot proviso was held over it.

THE COMPROMISE OF 1850.

And now the great compromiser, Henry Clay, thought the time had come for another great compromise, to save the union again. Strange that a compromise should have to be made by giving compensation for the admission of a state with a free constitution fairly formed by her own people! But freedom had always to compensate for its existance in the good old time. Mr. Clay's propositions, sifted from their circumlocution, were the following: California to be admitted with her own constitution; territorial governments in the territory acquired from Mexico to be silent as to slavery; that it was inexpedient to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; that the slave trade in the District ought to be forbidden; that a more effective law for recapturing fugitive slaves ought to be made; that Congress has no power to obstruct the inter-state slave trade.

After a long debate, during which President Taylor died, the affirmatives of these propositions were enacted into laws. California was admitted, the territories of New Mexico and Utah were organized without any anti-slavery proviso, the slave trade was forbidden in the District of Columbia, and a thorough law for the recapturing of escaped slaves was enacted. And as a rider to all, under pretense of defining the northern boundary of Texas, ten millions were given her to relinquish her claim on New Mexico, whereby a great appreciation was caused in Texas bonds, a part of which had been placed where they would do the most good.

SLAVERY ELIMINATED FROM POLITICS.

And now was proclaimed that the slavery question was compromised and settled for all time, and that any further agitation of anti-slavery measures would be inexcusable and wicked. Democracy and Whiggery, North and South, united in declaring that the millennium had come. The god-like Daniel Webster made a speech arguing the impropriety of putting any slavery exclusion into the Utah and New Mexico bills, because he said the climate and soil had forbidden slavery there, and to forbid it by law would be to re-enact the law of God.

The slave auction block was the bright jewel in the snout of our national capital. From the adjacent slave-breeding states men and women, boys and girls, were brought to the capital, and under the ægis of the great republic were knocked down to the highest bidder, to be driven off by the traders to the cotton states. The quarters in which these people were kept for the auction block were not pleasant to look at. Besides that effective persuader, the whip, they had mechanical appliances for slave torture, which showed that these sons of Noah did not always pay reverence to their father's drunkenness.

The right of men and women on the auction block, imported by the rough hands of the traders, was trying to the faith of the Northern people, even while they believed slavery a divine ordinance. Even the arrogant slave-breeders thought that this displayed their profession in an unfavorable aspect. So they allowed it to be forbidden at the capital, and that great slave mart was removed to Alexandria, a few miles away. As New Mexico was not attractive to emigrants, and as Utah was taken by the Mormons—who, although scriptural in marrying, were not scriptural in slaveholding—about all the present compensation the South got for letting in free California was the permission for hunting escaped slaves.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT.

This act is the finest illustration of the harmonious and happy state of our country in the good old democratic time, when the constitution was held sacred. Under it all that any man had to do to seize any man or woman in a free state to carry into slavery, was to make affidavit that he or she was an escaped slave. He could seize a person himself, could take him before a United States commissioner, and by simply swearing to his identity could carry him off. Any interference with this summary proceeding was subject to severe penalties.

The United States officers charged with the duty of arresting persons for such claimants were empowered to call on all bystanders to assist, and to summon the posse of the country. The act knew neither color nor previous condition save as sworn to by the claimant. Men carried off the victim even from the midst of old neighbors there, all ing him to call witnesses, without a jury trial, without any examination save the declaration of the claimant.

Hunting is the noblest pastime of men. It is noble in degree according to the elevation of the game in the scale of being. What hunting so ennobling as that of men and women, which was now opened in all the free states to the gentry and negro traders and thieves of the slave states! A horde of deputy marshals was appointed to do their biddings, and commissioners were created at places handy to expedite these abductions.

The act abolished all protection of freedom. Many free persons were carried into slavery. Many cruel scenes were enacted, causing much feeling in the observers. But the compromise of 1850 was declared to be a finality and a sacred compact, and the power of the slaveholders over the politics and conscience of the nation was probably not so great at any previous time as from the compromise of 1850. But in less than three years the slave power violated this compromise, and plunged into a new conflict to extend slavery into new territory.

THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONTEST.

The proposed territory of Nebraska embraced what is now Nebraska and Kansas. As it is north of the compromise line, a territorial government which was silent on slavery would be regarded as free because of that line. The bill was innocently introduced by a Northern Democrat, silent as to slavery, but it encountered in the Senate the almost solid opposition of the South. This opened a conflict which lasted until the southern states dissolved the Union.

The thought may occur to the hearer that the subject of slavery in politics is all of American politics. Without doubt slavery is the divine order. But the true accounts show that the divine order did never have an easy time. It was continually beaten by the other order. Thus the divine order of slavery was shown as much by its conflicts and adversities as by its power.

Taking up casually a periodical entitled the "Homiletic Magazine," which seemed to be a magazine of plans, subjects and ideas for sermons, to be filled in by the sermonizer, there turned up the framework of a sermon on the cheerful theme that disappointment is the common lot.

It began in the usual way, and said that the Creator was disappointed in his work of creation—"It repented Him that He had made man." He drowned all men and began anew, and that did not better it. It said that Eve was disappointed in the knowledge she gained by disobedience; that Solomon was disappointed in his expectation of happiness from riches and a thousand wives. With the usual masculine unconsciousness of the feelings and rights of woman, it never mentioned the thousand disappointments of his thousand wives. And it went on in the like cheerful strain. Therefore the incessant militant state of the slave power, and its final disappointment, only confirms the evidence that slavery is the divine order.

The first Nebraska bill was introduced in the House in 1852-3, and was passed by the House but defeated in the Senate. The second bill was introduced in the Senate in 1853, and was similar, and this, like the previous, was favorably reported by Stephen A. Douglas, chairman of the committee on Territories. But the slave power resisted the organization of a territory which would come in on the free side of the compromise. It had now developed the logical doctrine that the constitution carried slavery throughout the nation. It did not put the rugged end of this principle into enactment, but went at it by strategy.

Sen. Douglas now came to the surface as the great compromiser. An immoral Latin saying is that only good should be spoken of the dead. But this is the reverse of the Divine ordination is that after death comes the judgment. Douglas put forth the doctrine of popular sovereignty in the territories, to decide the slavery question. This, however, was not provided in the enactment, but instead was a vague declaration about leaving the inhabitants free to form their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution.

A new bill was brought in to form two territorial governments, and to repeal the Missouri compromise, substituting the above vague stump speech about letting the people form their own institutions, subject only to the constitution. That Douglas never meant that the inhabitants of these territories should have the power to exclude slavery, was proved by his approving the amendments offered to provide this. When asked if his bill would allow the people of the territory to exclude slavery, he answered that this was a question for judicial decision.

A bill to raise a law suit on the very subject it pretended to settle!—with the plot already made that the Supreme court, in a trumped-up suit, was to decree that a territory had no power to exclude slavery. That treacherous plot to deceive the northern people, and carry slavery into all the territories under the name of popular sovereignty, gives the character of Stephen A. Douglas.

The bill was passed in May, 1854. It got in the House 44 votes from the free states, all Democrats; but the same number of Democrats from the free states voted against it. In the Senate it had 35 yeas to 13 nays.

The meanest part of the plot was the debauching of the Supreme court to do its job to extend slavery. The party did not dare to do openly by legislation. To carry this out the Dred Scott suit was trumped up—Dred Scott, a slave of an army officer then in Missouri, being supposed to be suing for his freedom on the ground that his master had formerly taken him into territory which had been made free by the Missouri Compromise. Thus it was contrived to enable the court to spread itself over all points.

The court decided that only a citizen could sue in the courts, and that the term citizen meant one having the elective franchise. Therefore, Dred Scott, a negro, who in all our history had no rights that a white man was bound to respect, had no standing in the court. This ended the suit. But the court did not stop with that. It went on and declared that Congress had no power to forbid slavery anywhere; that slave property stood on the same footing as other property, and that Congress had the power and the duty to protect the owners in their rights of property throughout the jurisdiction.

Therefore it declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional because it forbade slave property north of a certain line, and that Dred Scott did not become legally free by being carried by his master into territory where that compromise forbade slavery. The dictum of the court would make the constitution carry slavery into the free states the same as into the territories; but this sequence was not thrust forward at present.

The decision that none but a voter had ever been a citizen, was historically a falsehood. The decision that only voters have the right to the protection of law, was atrocious. Law is made to protect the weak. The strong can protect themselves. It made this the meanest of governments. The dictum on slavery proved that the court was a tool of the Kansas conspiracy, and destroyed its character in the public mind. The Kansas-Nebraska act and its sequence became the all absorbing political agitation until the election of Lincoln, which was its direct consequence. Somehow the wicked were never to cease from troubling the divine order of slavery.

THE CIVIL WAR IN KANSAS.

But while debasing the judiciary to declare that the constitution carried slavery over all, the slave power was plotting to play the game of popular sovereignty in Kansas. Organized bands of armed ruffians from the border counties of Missouri took possession of the polls and organized in a Legislature of themselves, which enacted slavery and atrocious slave laws. Pres. Pierce's administration favored this usurpation, and that and the following one of Buchanan tried to fasten upon the territory a slave-state constitution, formed by a convention elected by the same means, without submitting it to a vote of the people.

Civil war raged in the territory, and the agitation of this affair possessed the politics of the country. Out of all this conflict the Republican party was organized in 1856, its principle being non-interference with slavery where it existed, but opposition to any further extension of it. [A wit of the time said that its platform was that slavery is right where it is, and wrong where it isn't.] Enterprising emigrants from the free states went to Kansas in good faith to settle, and were treated as having no right to come. They were reinforced by Eastern emigrant aid societies, and supplied with arms for defense. This was stimulated by the sacking and burning of Lawrence in 1856 by a border ruffian invasion.

The free state settlers were in large majority. They called a convention, formed a free state constitution and asked Congress for admission, and elected a legislature; but now the United States army was called in to disperse this legislature. Invasion by border ruffian bands continued, destroying settlements, and subjecting the settlers to brutal outrage. The conflict in Kansas, and the political agitation and reconstruction of parties because of it, would take a whole history to narrate. The brief summary is that the people of Kansas presented to Congress a free state constitution, ratified by the vote of the people, and asked admission. On the other hand, the border ruffian convention presented a slave state constitution, to be imposed by Congress on the state without being submitted to a vote of the people.

All the influence of the administration was applied to force through Congress the slave-state usurpation. But there were Northern Democrats afraid of the fire in the rear, who could not be brought up to the rack. There were others who, like Douglas, wanted contrivances for doing the thing under cover. This prevented the admission of Kansas until after the slavery lords had withdrawn from the Senate and from the Union.

CUBA AND MANIFEST DESTINY.

While this was going on the slave lords were looking to Cuba to make two slave states to keep their preponderance in the Senate. By order of Pres. Pierce, in 1854, our ministers at London, Paris and Madrid—James Buchanan, John Y. Mason and Pierre Soulé—convened at Ostend to confer about getting Cuba.

They issued a pronunciamento—known in history as the Ostend Manifesto—declaring Cuba essential to the United States for defense, and that Spain was bankrupt, and might be compelled to sell the island to her British creditors, and that it was frightfully misgoverned, and that if Spain would not sell it to us for a fair price, we had the right to seize it by force. Thus did the great republic proclaim to the world that its higher law was that of the pirate. But the Democratic party got so many affairs on its hands, and was so falling to pieces in the North, that this fine scheme was not carried out. All that came of it was the exhibition of our national morals, and some filibustering expeditions, subjecting Spain to great expenses.

THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION.

The slavery conflict rent the Democratic party. In its national convention at Charleston, in 1860, the southern leaders argued that forasmuch as the question of slavery in the territories had been referred to the Supreme court, which had declared that Congress had the power and the duty to protect slave property in the national territory, the platform should affirm this. The Douglas party opposed this, for the reason that it would defeat the party in most of the free states. They proposed, instead, that the platform should declare this a judicial question. The southern leaders refused this, for the reason that it had been once referred to the judiciary and had been decided.

The demand of the Southern leaders was unquestionably the policy of honesty, and the policy of the faction which was directed by Douglas was that of deceit. Upon this dispute the convention divided. The Southern section nominated Breckenridge of Kentucky. The Northern section convened at Baltimore and nominated Douglas. A Southern neutral party nominated Bell of Tennessee. This resulted in the election of Lincoln.

CONCLUSION—THE EMANCIPATION.

Here this very meager historical sketch of slavery in American politics must end. No one who did not have an active interest in politics in the ten or fifteen years before the secession war, can form any idea of the subserviency of politics to the slave lords.

A true picture of this would be impossible, and would find no believers in those who have since come on the stage. Yet there are fossil politicians of that period in which they did not dare assert the possession of a soul, who mumble of that as the good old time of Democratic rule; who call that pandemonium of agitation, conflict, hate, cruelty and barbarism, the peace which reigned when the Democratic party governed the country. It was the peace of Southern lords and Northern slaves.

In that good old time a majority of the judges of the Supreme court must be slaveholders, and every judge of any U. S. court must be loyal to slavery. The rule was that the South must have a majority of the foreign ministers, and the others were servile to slavery. No Democrat could be appointed to any office under Democratic administrations unless he were for all that slavery demanded. The threat to break up the Union was always held over, and was regarded as alone justifiable in behalf of slavery.

Northern citizens in the South on business were liable to be lynched instantly if any enemy or dishonest debtor circulated the charge of anti-slavery opinions. The reign of slavery was a reign of barbarism, of brutality, and of crime. The pistol and bludgeon were exercised to suppress opinions in Congress. Slaveholding was the desired supremacy, and he who disputed it had no rights that the law was bound to protect.

When Lincoln was elected the Northern people realized the terms on which the Union had been allowed to exist. They had been allowed to hold the form of elections, and to play at government by the people as children play at keeping store; but always on condition that the slave lords would take the permission from them if they did not make slavery the supreme end of government.

The secession was not from fear of the abolition of slavery. It was the revolt of a long-reigning despotic dynasty, because it had to lay down absolute power, and submit to a government of the people. And the great emancipation was not in the breaking of the bonds of 4,000,000 of the African-American race—the great emancipation was in setting free the souls of the Northern people.

What It Is—What It Does.

Hood's Sarsaparilla is made of sarsaparilla, dandelion, man drake, cherry bark, uva ursi, dock, and other valuable medicinal agents long and favorably known for their power in eradicating disease and purifying the blood. It will cure, when in the form of medicine, Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Dyspepsia, Headache, Constipation, Biliousness, General Debility, Pains in the Back, Kidney Complaint, Catarrh, Female Weakness, Cancerous Humors, Humors of the Face, Ringworm, Pimples, Ulcers, Sores, Tumors, Scald Head, and all diseases arising from an impure state or low condition of the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla is made by C. I. Hood, Lowell, Mass. Sold by all druggists; $1, six for $5.

An Ex-Vice President.

Ex-Vice Pres. William A. Wheeler is living at his old home in Malone, Franklin county, N. Y. He is wifeless, childless, and sleepless, and said to be fast nearing his end. Is is customary to speak of Mr. Wheeler as an "accident" and as one of the "great obscure," but he was a man among men in his time, and his nomination to the vice presidency was but the crowning of a well rounded career. He had been district attorney, state senator, and president of the state agricultural convention, and in Congress was chairman of the committee on Ways and Means and a power in debate whenever he could be prevailed upon to speak. Like all famous fishermen, he was of a contemplative turn of mind, which may account for his preference for the shades. He is but another instance of a statesman lost in a vice president.

The "old reliable"—Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

Cows, Calves and Spoons.

In the Vassar girl's slang, all male persons are "men" and all females "cows." When a Vassar "cow" wishes to especially honor the "cousin" whom she is permitted to invite to the periodical college receptions, she encourages him to steal one or more of the pewter lunch spoons, stamped "Vassar Female College," as a memento. There is complete reciprocal trade established between Poughkeepsie and West Point, spoons being exchaged for cadet buttons. The "cows" are interested in the affairs of the male colleges, and takes sides pending inter-university athletic events, but their hearts goes out to the baby warriors at the military reservation as to none others.

A Highly Successful Imitation.

It is not often that human invention can improve on nature in trying to imitate her most serviceable materials. But a material that adds to the beauty and finish of amber, shell or ivory, with all the appearance of these substances, the quality of infrangibility, has certainly a decided advantage over them, especially in the manufactured state Zylonite is now made in large quantities in New England, and its uses are almost infinite. For brushes, combs and everything delicate that requires a handle, from a knife to an umbrella, it is really handsomer and much cheaper than the substance it imitates. A real amber mouth-piece for a cigar-holder is as rare now as the imitation was a year ago.

—For 20 years Henry F. Balcom, of Shirley, Mass., suffered with rheumatism. He found no relief till he took Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Recent Literature.

POEMS, AND AELIA. From "Entre Nous." By the Marquis de Leuville. Cloth, 128 pp, illustrated. Chapman and Hall, London; American News Co., New York.

This pretentious volume (pretentious in contents, not otherwise) is from the pen of the somewhat noted adventurer, who first attracted notice on this side of the Atlantic as the future husband of Mrs. Frank Leslie, and more recently has brought suit for libel against a New York daily for doubting his right to the title of the "Marquis of Leuville." He is a soldier of fortune, and his poetry is as destitute of sterling worth as is himself.

FLAXIE GROWING UP. (Flaxie Frizzle Stories.) By Sophie May. Cloth, 302 pp. Lee & Shepard, Boston.

Another of the charming "Flaxie Frizzle" series of juveniles, and one doubtless destined to as great a popularity as the former books of the author, whose famous "Dotty Dimple" stories have been the delight of thousands on thousands of little folks.

HARRY COVERDALE'S COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE, AND WHAT CAME OF IT. By Frank E. Smedley. Paper, 358 pp., 75c. T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia.

The reputation of this famous English author, whose "Frank Fairleigh" won for him at once a position in the front rank of story-writers, is well kept up in this volume. His works are of unflagging interest. They are deserving of a place in every novel-reader's library, and their perusal is a pleasure, as they are true to life, quaint, humorous and graphic.

AT THE WORLD'S MERCY. By the author of "The House on the Marsh." Paper, 172 pp., 15c. D. Appleton & Co., New York.

This is the second work of an author who has compassed fame at a bound, and it is equal to its popular predecessor, "The House on the Marsh." Like it, it treats of the adventures of a young girl, forced by circumstances to support herself by going out as a governess, with the resulting complication of getting two brothers madly in love with her. The story is well told, is interesting from first to last, and we recommend it heartily.

MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

The frontispiece of the January number is a fine portrait of Count de Vergennes illustrating an exceptionally well considered paper by Hon. John Jay on the life and character of the great French statesman. The "Manor of Gardiner's Island" is an illustrated paper by the editor. "Puritanism in New York," by Rev. Charles A. Briggs, D. D., will attract attention. The "Building of the Monitor," by Rev. Francis B. Wheeler, D. D., of Poughkeepsie, is a paper presenting facts of historic value. A notable contribution is the illustrated "Diary of Dr. John Jeffries," the first aeronaut who crossed the English Channel in a balloon. Original documents contain seven unpublished letters from prominent men of the Revolution. Charles Lelyard Norton furnishes the second chapter of "Political Americanisms," and "Minor Topics," "Notes," "

Question Bureau.

1. The true name and postoffice address must be given in all cases, but, when specially requested, they will not be published.

2. No attention will be paid to mathematical problems, questions of grammatical construction, or inquiries regarding the reliability of individuals, firms or corporations.

3. Communications for this department must be written on a separate sheet, directed to the "Question Bureau," and contain not more than three questions. Do not ask a question and then direct that it be answered by mail. If we can answer it, and it is considered of general interest, it will be answered. It is useless to request an answer in "the next issue." The questions received at this office and we are usually two or three weeks behind.

4. This department is not intended to settle disputes or decide bets. Replies to queries are intended to be of general interest, and no one has the right to demand a reply. A well-meaning inquirer must be patient, as the conscientious editor is the final judge of what shall and what shall not be answered. Do not request an answer by mail.

5. No question will receive the slightest attention unless the first and third rules above are STRICTLY complied with.

Are the cabinet officers and President of the United States required to give bonds?

No; they are not supposed to handle money except their salaries.

E. S. E., Dunlap, Ia.:

What will be the eight cents of 1878 any common value?

Nothing more than th ir face value.

Reader, East Toledo, O.:

Please tell me how many states have voted for Cleveland?

Rhode Island is the only one that enjoys that luxury.

J. N. B., Tea Mile, Mo.:

Can you tell me what a good cheap type would be for a country weekly?

Inquire of manufacturers or agents in that preparation will have to such national ly park.

Subscriber, Wauseon, O.:

Is there a law depriving soldiers that desert from the army in the late war and refused to take the oath of allegiance at the previous election, such as voting and sitting on juries?

Yes, but it is a dead letter.

S. C. H., Sarcoxie, Mo.:

Please tell me the process of road making. Is it a desirable and buy prepared road? Are the votaries of the par- hat startling- n the denomi- not profess to th of parties. mparison the Bacchus and result was to between mine in 10,000 con- only 8,700 at- Of the women, and ers on Sun- of England, 1,985 Bap- mainder nu- ed that there rch or chap- in 1885. A postmaster, who died of his pen- Pancras the the object of ference is to

Subscriber, Stanton, O.:

If a person living in Ohio obtained a divorce from a party living in New York, would the divorce be useful?

In New York no divorce from the bonds of matrimony is granted except upon the ground of adultery. Divorce from bed and board is granted for various causes; when both parties were inhabitants of New York at the time the matrimonial contract was entered into, or when the marriage having been performed in the state, the injured party, at the time of such commission and for a year previous, was an actual resident of the state, or when the offense was committed in the state, and the injured party is an actual inhabitant of the state at the time of filing the petition.

E. W., Creston, Ia.:

Is there any land in the Staked Plains that are subject to entry? If so, what is the price? Is it in that part of Texas and part of New Mexico that is called the Staked Plains? If not, what is it? If not on all the maps, but I don't know what it is.

It has an area exceeding 40,000 square miles, and was once supposed to be a barren desert. A Texas paper of a late date says wells of splendid water are being dug, which not only supply stock, but enable the owners to raise crops successfully for irrigating purposes. One authority says the plateau was named from the stalks of yucca plants originally found growing on it. Another says it received the name from the many cattle trails running through it. Any last Au- country drove states within sight of each other, on which hides were hung, so that the dressed and ning with a W. S. S., Canton, N. Y.:

Give me a rule for measuring cattle, to find the net weight of meat, hide and tallow.

Measure in inches the girth round the body just behind the shoulder-blade, and the length of the back from the tail to the forepart of the shoulder-blade. Multiply the girth by itself and this product by 16. If the girth is less than 6 feet, multiply the quotient by it; if between five feet and five feet, multiply by 10; if between five feet and seven feet, multiply by 12; if seven feet and over, multiply by 14. Divide the product by 400, and the result is the net weight of the animal in pounds.

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C. P., Barnes Centre, Mich.:

What was the name of the Brigadier that died with Gen. Marion, when and only sweet potatoes?

History

Bk.

—Rough on Decree of

Dale.

Dec. 13, 1884.

reat and glori- ing of celebrat- Victoria's reign, ted on June 20, ants upon the make arrange- n the grandest nors. The last as in 1809, when at was merrily make the whole cognition of her y ideas are al- which has most is the use of the schemes not talk of repro- Old London at whole weak is to be kept every form of ed. It seems ll the magnificent ideas preparation t will have to such national ly park.

K.

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THE WEEKLY BLADE.

TOLEDO BLADE CO., PUBLISHERS. | D. R. LOCKE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8.

☞ ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT TOLEDO AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

THE TOLEDO BLADE.

CHEAPEST PAPER IN THE WORLD.

LARGEST AND BEST WEEKLY PUBLISHED.

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Single copy, one year, $1,00, six months, 60 cents, three months, 30 cents. Clubs of 11, one year, $10—our best terms to agents for club of any size, every eleventh copy free, or the agent may retain 10 per cent. commission in cash.

SPECIMEN COPIES sent, post-paid free to any address, postal for one, and at the same time give us the address of a dozen or so of your friends. Address,

THE BLADE,
TOLEDO, O.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIRST PAGE.
Columns 1-3—Poetry.
" 2-3—A Frost-Bitten Clergyman.
" 4-5-6—Humor.
" 7-8—Miscellany.

SECOND PAGE.
Columns 1-2-3-4-5—Miscellany.
" 6-7-8—Camp Fire.

THIRD PAGE.
Columns 1-2-3-4-5—Answers to Correspondents.
" 6-7-8—Advertisements.

FOURTH PAGE.
Column 1—The Blade.
" 2—Review of the Week.
" 3-4-5-6—Editorial on Leading Topics.
" 6—Nasby's Letter.
" 7—Current Events.

FIFTH PAGE.
Columns 1-2-3-4—Correspondence—News of the Week.
" 6-7-8—Advertisements.

SIXTH PAGE.
Columns 1-2-3-4—The Household.
" 5-6-7—The Young Folks.
" 8—The Sunday School.

SEVENTH PAGE.
Columns 1-6—The Farm.
" 6-7-8—The News of the Week.

EIGHTH PAGE.
Columns 1-2-3-4—News of the Week (continued.)
" 5-6-7-8—The Markets—Advertisements

Circulation Last Week, 120,000.

MUST HAVE IT.

The people will and must have the BLADE. This is a sample of the way they write, when renewing their subscriptions: "Any paper which takes such exalted and noble ground as you do shall have my hearty support." And the readers of the BLADE are among the very best class of American citizens. It goes into the homes of the people, and is the great household paper of the country. No better medium for advertisers can be found.

TO THOSE WHO DO NOT TAKE THE BLADE.

Several thousand copies of this issue of the BLADE go to persons not subscribers, their friends having sent in their names for specimen copies. We ask them to examine it carefully, and if they like it, to enroll themselves on our books. We claim for the BLADE that it is the best weekly paper published in the United States, or the world, and the cheapest. It publishes more matter, it is more carefully edited, and is altogether the best for the family. Its enormous circulation in every state in the Union, is the best evidence of its value.

The terms of the BLADE are invariably:—

One Year, (post-paid,) - - $1.00.
Three Months, - - - - - 30 cents.
Six Months, - - - - - - 60 cents.

Send in your name as soon possible. Take notice of the combinations we make of books and the Waterbury Watch. Any how, examine the paper carefully.

SEND US NAMES.

Send us the names of your friends to whom we may send specimen copies. No matter where they are.—East, West, North or South, send them in. The BLADE is the only paper that can claim a purely National circulation. It goes to every State and Territory in the Union, and to almost every Postoffice. It is as popular in Maine as it is in Texas, and is read with as much avidity in New York as in Washington Territory. We want all the names we can get.

THE Pension committee of the national encampment of the G. A. R recognizes the hopelessness of attempting to obtain the passage of a bill before Congress that would involve an annual outlay of $80,000,000. They therefore declare the impracticability of the "$8 per month" pension bill, and say that to attempt its passage will be to hinder the adoption of other measures urgently demanded by ex-veterans, suffering from disease and wounds contracted in the service. The committee is of the opinion that the introduction of the above bill has distracted attention from the rightful demands of over 250,000 pension applicants whose claims are now pending before the bureau, and which need the passage of judicious measures by Congress for their prompt adjudication.

THE question of crushing out the Rum Power is being strongly agitated in Louisiana. The fight has been made in several of the parishes (as their counties are called) of the state, and the anti-whisky men have triumphed. On this matter the Natchitoches *Democratic Re*tone says:

Every term of our court confirms the opinion that whisky is the greatest curse of our country. A large majority of the crimes for which parties are convicted, or tried by the courts of the country, are traceable directly to whisky.

Its use is actually a blight to the negro race. It not only serves to impoverish them, but makes them unfit to work, and forces them to steal for a living. Unless something is done to abate this evil among the negroes, they will, like the Indians, be destroyed by it.

JAPAN is to investigate the claims of Christianity before embracing it. It is stated that a committee of Buddhist priests of Japan is to go to Europe to study Christianity, with a view to its adoption in lieu of Buddhism in case it should be found to be a better religion. The task before this committee is a difficult one. Which of the various forms of Christianity will they decide to investigate—Roman Catholicism, the Greek Church, the Anglican Church, the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, or some other of the myriad sects that have sprung from the teachings of the Master? Or will they take the Bible for a basis, and repudiate all creeds?

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AT ONCE.

and send in the name of another subscriber at the same time. We want to double the circulation of the BLADE this winter, and this is the way it is to be done.

And while you are about it look at our combination offers. We combine the best steel engraving ever made, the Waterbury Watch, the Perfection Scale, and several of the most valuable books ever printed. See which of them you want, and remit at once. There is a saving in taking these combinations with the BLADE.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

HENRY CLEWS & Co., New York bankers, in their weekly financial circular, give the following reasons for anticipating a business boom this spring: "There are already indications of the present commercial reaction drawing to a close in those branches of trade first experiencing it. In the iron, coal and other mining industries, for instance, the extreme depression through which they are now passing was of much later date than in the great cotton and woolen industries; and it is gratifying to note a much better feeling in the wholesale dry goods trade, which after the opening of a new year is likely to become much more pronounced. Already a more hopeful feeling is observable in that quarter, where business is in such shape that the middle of the coming month will undoubtedly witness a much more active movement of goods in the channels of distribution. From all sections of the interior reports are of a more encouraging nature. Everywhere there is a disposition to quietude until after the period of annual settlements, stock-taking and the January crop of business embarrassments; but there is also a more confident idea that if liquidation is complete in some quarters, better things are in store in others—an opinion in which we fully concur."

ACCORDING to *Bradstreet's*, there were 366 failures during the week, against 278 the previous week. This is considered the natural result of the "settling up" period at the beginning of the year, and the feeling in the financial centers is that there will be a general revival of business all along the line. In New York and Philadelphia between $40,000,000 and $50,000,000 in dividends was paid on January 1. The Eastern papers say that the list of unemployed is less by 46 per cent. than one month ago. The bears and croakers have had their day, and should be sent to the rear and kept there.

THE public debt increased $500,000 during December. As November also showed an increase, the public is getting interested. Many plausible explanations are given, but the fact appears to be that it is due to the business depression, which is much aggravated by the uncertainty as to the financial policy of the Democrats when they assume the reins of national sovereignty. This depression has led to a great falling off in the government's receipts, while the expenditures necessarily remain as high as ever.

DURING the last week, the general movement of merchandise has not improved in any marked degree. The grain market has a decidedly hopeful outlook. The bulls in New York declare they have got "control of all the outlying wheat in the country," that wheat "has sold long enough at a point below the cost of production," and that an era of high prices must necessarily set in. Chicago reports wheat as buoyant with an upward tendency.

THE failures of 1884 are greater in number than those of 1878, which was the worst year of the period of "tight times" following the crash of 1873, although the total of liabilities was some $8,000,000 less. 1878 showed a total of 10,478 failures, with $234,383,132 total liabilities; 1884, according to the report of R. G. DUN & Co.'s mercantile agency, shows 10,968 failures, with total liabilities amounting to $226,343,427. There has been an increase of failures each year from 1881 to the present time.

THE famous Liberty Bell is to be taken from Philadelphia to the New Orleans exposition. Whereupon the *Bulletin*, of the former city, rises to remark that "Philadelphia is not to pay any freight, as the bell cannot be tolled."

CHILI is suffering from all the evils of fiat money. She issued an enormous total of paper money during the war with Peru, and it is now irredeemable.

THE length of new railway track constructed in 1884, according to the *Railway Age*, of Chicago, was a little less than 4,000 miles, being 3,000 less than in 1883, and 7,600 under the figure of the great year, 1882. The states and territories in which the greatest length of road was built as follows: Iowa, 279; Minnesota, 279; Dakota, 969; Pennsylvania, 252.

THE winter is an unusually severe one on the Western cattle ranges. The plains are buried under a foot or more of snow, and the mercury is making its lowest record for year. The loss, it is estimated, will be very severe. *Bradstreet's* estimates that of the 215,000 head of cattle driven into Montana for winter grazing, 33,000 will perish of starvation and exposure.

THE advance of Lord WOLSELEY in Egypt is now watched with the greatest interest as he has reached the critical point, which is at the first great bend of the Nile, whence there is a march of 120 miles across the desert to Shendy. This march must be so conducted that the army will be in good fighting condition on reaching Shendy, for it is not probable that the Mahdi will permit a concentration of troops there without opposition. Several of GORDON'S steamers are there waiting, and from there troops could be transported to Khartoum on the river. This undertaking of Lord WOLSELEY'S is one of the most important of his life, as should he fail, it means the destruction of the entire force and the fall of Khartoum.

THE complications into which BISMARCK has led England are now seen to be decidedly serious. The Chancellor seems to have assumed the position that the other powers shall not act in regard to the Egyptian proposals until France and England have agreed on them; and as France will not agree until she has her own way, Great Britain practicall stands alone against the continent of Europe. As will be readily understood, the English people are furious at the Ministry whose policy, or rather, whose lack of policy, has placed them in this position. Lord GRANVILLE and Lord DERBY are practically without friends to defend a course which has given Germany so great an influence in English affairs. The increase of the navy will be a most popular notion now in Great Britain.

MR. GLADSTONE is seriously ill, more so than his friends have been willing to acknowledge. The sleeplessness, which is one of the symptoms of his present condition, is a very grave one, and his physicians are insisting upon absolute rest. Just in the present critical aspect of things, this is hard to take,

IN spite of the resolve of Queen VICTORIA that the Princess BEATRICE should never marry any one, the latter has been betrothed, with the consent of her mother, to Prince HENRY, of Battenburg.

DOES PROHIBITION PROHIBIT?

The Liquor Dealers' Associations, National State and County, oppose the prohibition movement on the score that Prohibition does not prohibit the sale of intoxicants, but rather increases it. How any one can be deceived by such rot, passes our comprehension. The Brewers have an interest in making the sales of their swash as large as possible. If a prohibitory law in any state increases the sale of Beer, as a matter of course they would favor it. They would be the first ones that would pack caucusses in its favor, they would insist upon Legislatures passing it, and they would take the wind out of the sails of the prohibitionists by urging their cause.

But it is not the case, and anybody not an idiot who can read figures ought to know it. Prohibition does not prohibit in full, and will not for years to come, but it goes a great way toward it.

The state of Maine has had Prohibition in force for 30 years. Pronibition has reduced the sale and use of intoxicants enormously. Two-thirds of the traffic has been wiped out, and a few years will see it well nigh extirpated. The Prohibitionists of Maine were the first to test the question, they were compelled to make all the experiments, and it is not singular that perfect success was not attained. Still, they reduced the sale of liquors from about $13,000,000 to less than $3,000,000, which is an improvement worth all the effort the law has cost.

But it has done a greater thing than that. The people of Maine have been educated up to the point of considering the traffic in liquors disreputable, and the user of liquor as bad as the seller. It has been entirely wiped out of the country villages, and in the larger cities it is sold only in secret. In Portland liquor is sold only in out-of-the way places, and by people who are willing to accept social infamy for the little profit they derive from a disreputable trade. A generation has grown up in Maine who know not the taste of Rum, and another generation will see the Pine Tree State entirely rid of the curse.

We have conflicting reports from Kansas and Iowa. Probably the decent people of those states are having trouble in enforcing the law. This is to be expected. It is a tremendous work to accomplish, and it will take years to do it. Nobody expected that liquor would be wiped out of those states in one, or five, or ten years. This generation will not see it. There so many technicalities behind which the traffic can shelter itself, there are so many faint-hearted men, and so many treacherous men, that holes are made in the law big enough to drive a cart through. These have to be stopped, one at a time, and then re-stopped, and stopped over again, till the tide is turned and the trade is driven from the field, into the holes and corners, and even then it will have to be pursued till it is wiped out completely. It is the work of years to accomplish this anywhere, more years than any one who reads these lines will live to see.

It is a curse that has such a hold upon the social, political and financial system of the country that a moral revolution will be required to eradicate it.

Are the people to stop working against an evil because the evil is too great to be killed off in a year? Because the banditti who are making war upon society are entrenched in strong places, is the effort to dislodge them to cease? There should be no question as to the right of society to protect itself against this devastating evil. There isn't a father or mother whose son is going down to hell, via the whisky mill or the beer shop, who does not know that the right exists somewhere to prevent their piracy. There is not a political economist who has ever figured up the cost of Rum to the people of the country, who does not realize the fact something must be done to stop it. There isn't a man who takes an honest interest in the welfare of his country who does not know that Rum is at the bottom of all the corruption in politics. In short there isn't a man interested in humanity at all, who does not realize the fact that Rum is the one great overshadowing curse of the world, the one rotting, leeching, consuming evil, that threatens the very existence of the human race.

To say that such an evil is not to be met with law is to say that the people may not protect themselves.

Prohibition is the only protection. Maine is the Star in the East for Prohibitionists. Maine has demonstrated the fact that it can be crippled, and, in time, killed. Maine has showed practical results, and what Maine has done any of the states can do. All that is necessary is steady, persistent effort, the union of all good men and men to make the traffic disreputable, a steady fight, in which the ground gained, if it be but an inch, shall be held. It cannot be that a curse which is so well understood to be a curse, a curse that has not a compensating good to give it a claim for existence, can not only live but rule in a country like ours. It cannot be that the fathers and mothers who have children whose future is threatened by this one gigantic evil, are willing to sit down and permit it to seize their best, and drag them down to destruction. It cannot be that this country, the fairest the sun shines upon, is to be given to the Brewers and Distillers, and that they alone shall make its destiny.

Prohibition does Prohibit where the people say it shall—it can be made to prohibit everywhere. Prohibition is the only way to

Pulverize the Rum Power.

OUR COMBINATION OFFERS.

We call the especial attention of our subscribers who are renewing their subscriptions, to our combination offers. The books we advertise are all of them the best of their class, the Waterbury Watch is all that is represented, and the Scales have no superior. Read the advertisement carefully, and if you need any of these goods, avail yourselves of the saving there is in combining them with the BLADE.

THE reports from New Orleans are all to about the same effect: that there is a great deal there to see, but nothing as yet equal to the centennial in 1876; that the exhibition is not yet in order; that adequate arrangements have not been made for the transportation of visitors; and that the hotels and boarding houses and restaurants purpose to make all they can out of the crowd of visitors. It is added by most correspondents that there is no need of being in a hurry to see the show—that a few weeks later, say February, will do quite as well, or better,

THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE.

The Boston *Globe* has published the presidential vote, on the basis of returns sent by the various secretaries of state in reply to a circular which that paper sent out. The results it thus obtained are as follows: The whole number of votes given for president on the four electoral tickets was 10,036,057, of which CLEVELAND received 4,842,292; BLAINE, 4,810,219; BUTLER, 234,848; and ST. JOHN, 148,698. To this aggregate there is to be added 2,263 scattering and defective votes.

In place, therefore, of the 60,000 to 124,000 plurality which has been computed in various quarters for CLEVELAND, it will be seen that his actual plurality is but 32,073, while in the entire country he is in a minority of 353,735. The New York *Sun* (Democratic) has a strong editorial article, based upon these figures, from which we make several extracts. Speaking of the disposition between the actual vote and the number of votes in the South, the *Sun* says:

Small as was their vote for Cleveland, that of Blaine was still smaller, showing that a very large proportion of the legal voters in those states absented themselves from the polls. The *Globe* indicates the actual number, and computes the percentage of the voters that thus refrained from voting: In Kentucky the percentage was 31; in Virginia it was 37; in Texas 38; in Arkansas, 43; in Alabama, 47; in Louisiana, 55; in Mississippi, 56; in South Carolina, 62; and in Georgia, 66. This extensive absenteeism certainly gives some color to the charge that a large proportion of the voters are kept away from the polls by intimidation.

A critical analysis of the returns makes the fact apparent that the nominations of the great parties were not acceptable to the voters. The majorities of Tilden in 1876 and of Hancock in 1880 present an instructive contrast to those of Cleveland in 1884, and show that the candidacy of the latter was by no means well received by the rank and file of the Democratic party. The election was carried only by reason of the fatuity of the Republicans in placing in nomination a man [alleged to be] identified with the worst elements of their party—the monopolists, defrauders of the government, and corruptionists generally. A powerful section of organization refused to support him, and that sufficed to turn the election. A triumph achieved by such means assures to the successful candidate and his supporters no rational prospect of continuing in power beyond the next Presidential term. The slightest dissatisfaction will destroy whatever prestige he may possess, and with it the ascendancy of the party which he represents.

For example, in the state of New York, where the battle of 1884 was decided, the disaffection in the Democratic ranks was intense and unconcealed. The election of 1882 showed that the boom which had made Cleveland Governor, was operating as a boomerang to destroy him. If the Republicans had nominated an unexceptionable ticket, the plurality against Mr. Cleveland would doubtless have approximated that by which he was elected Governor—in other words, nearly 200,000. The extraordinary efforts of the Democratic managers to keep Prohibition tickets in the field and to capture votes from the People's party showed the straits to which they were driven.

The breach in the Republican ranks is already substantially healed. The discreet bearing of the Stalwarts during the canvass has rendered their return to their old allegiance very easy. If no renewed bitterness is caused by the election of the new Senator, they will be prepared to do battle next November to elect a Republican Governor. This would give that party the key of the situation for 1888.

The restoration of New York to her former position at the head of the Republican column would threaten not only the ascendency, but the very existence of the Democratic party as at present constituted. The immense falling off of Democratic pluralities in the Southern states indicates that the South will not remain solid for another four years; and there are few Northern states, if any, that are likely to take their place on that side. The disintegration of the Democratic party will then be probable; and it is not too much to say that it will require the greatest sagacity on the part of its managers, and pre-eminently on the part of the new President, to prevent such a result.

THE BEST BOOKS AT THE LOWEST PRICES.

"Andersonville," "Nasby in Exile," "Old Dr. Carlin's Recipe Book," "Health and Beauty" and "Social Etiquette," are the books which we offer in combination with the BLADE. These books are all of our own publication, three of them are sold at much less than the regular price, and all of them are valuable publications, which should be in every house. See the announcement on 8th page of this issue of the BLADE.

CONGRESS has just reassembled after the holiday recess. It seems that the choice of the first Monday in December for its meeting was an unfortunate one. Times change, and manners change with them; and the fathers, when in their wisdom they fixed that date, had no idea that the holiday spirit would become a factor potent enough to disturb the session. Practically nowadays Congress does nothing until January; and it would be a piece of wisdom to change the time of meeting to the second Monday in January. The date, however, is fixed by the constitution, and it is thus extremely difficult to make such a change—unless, indeed, at some future day, a convention of states is called for the general amendment of the charter of our liberties.

THE diplomatic service of the United States embraces 36 missions, filled by 50 ministers and secretaries of legation. There are four first-class missions, with annual salaries of $17,500 each. These are to England, France, Germany and Russia. The seven missions in the second class are to Austria-Hungary, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, China and Japan, the salary being $12,000 a year. The other diplomatic places are worth from $10,000 down to $5,000 for ministers, and from $2,500 to $1,800 for secretaries. The consular service embraces five places at $8,000, three at $5,000, one at 4,500, five at 4,000, eight at $3,500, twenty at $3,000, nineteen at $2,500, thirty-five at $2,000, fifty-nine at $1,500, twenty-five at $1,000; thirty-six consuls and consular offices are paid by fees.

THE evil of intemperance is exciting attention in military circles in both Great Britain and France. According to the *British Medical Journal* there was last year an enormous loss to the effective force of the army and navy from intemperance. In the army 1,400 cases of drunkenness were tried by court-martial, besides over 4,000 convictions from crimes springing from excessive drinking. During the year 15,904 soldiers, or 102 in every thousand, were mulcted in their pay for drunkenness. And in a circular issued to naval commanders-in-chief and maritime prefects on the subject, the French minister of Marine states, that offenses of drunkenness are increasing to a disgusting extent, urges that stringent measures should be taken to check the growing evil, and suggests patrols and the prosecution of such proprietors of drinking shops who may supply liquor to men already intoxicated.

IT is claimed by a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette* that the restoration of JEFF DAVIS to citizenship and his election to the United States Senate is one of the most cherished schemes of the Southern Democrats. Said one of the latter to the correspondent, "Then the American people would, after twenty years' sober reflection, have fully indorsed the justice of our lost cause."

A NEW POINT IN THE RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE PROBLEM.

The BLADE has received many letters from all parts of the West, expressing gratification at the stand it has taken for the protection of the farmers from the extortions of the railways in the matter of freight charges. We wish to call attention at present to the points raised in one from Larimore, Dakota, and discuss them somewhat. Says the writer:

I am much gratified to see you take the stand you do for reducing freights in the west, especially on grain shipped by farmers. Your idea of national legislation is undoubtedly the correct one, but in looking to such a remedy a serious question is, how many members of Congress are owned by the railroad monopolists? Another question that occasions serious thought is this: That legislation of this kind has always proved a failure. People hear the railroad laws of Illinois and Massachusetts spoken of as the best of any states in the Union; yet apparently fair persons denounce all such legislation as a failure, and desire to leave the question to competition. This means to leave the monopolists in possession, to do as they please. Nearly all our country towns are without competition, and the powerful corporations already in possession of the field double teams against and kill off any competing line that attempts to enter the Northwest. It is not true that competition will right the wrong, for the vast majority of places in a new country cannot get competition. The railroads do not volunteer to build unless the people from thralldom, even when the latter pay fully one-third the price of wheat for shipping it to the nearest market. Relief must come, if it comes at all, through legislation. I do not wish to see hasty legislation in this territory, that will cripple railroads and stop their building, nor keep capital from coming into the country. We need the railroads and we need the capital, but the people also need to live, which they cannot at present prices and freight rates. Most of the state and territorial legislatures in the Northwest will be driven to take some measures this winter to relieve the farmers and if Congress can be induced to take some just action, it will be one of the most timely laws it ever passed.

As to the first point—the number of Congressmen owned, soul and body, by the railroads cannot be told, until a square vote can be had on some measure looking to the control of their traffic in the interests of the people. The unworthy ones will then show their hands, and it rests with the people themselve to see that they are relegated to private life, and men who will work for the interests of the farmers elected in their places.

The claim that legislation of this sort has always proved a failure, is an assumption, because but little has ever been done in this direction, and that of a purely tentative character. The rights and liabilities of railroads have not yet been clearly defined by law. The ordinary law applicable to common carriers is insufficient for the railroads, from this fact: that in the case of railroads, the common carrier not only does the transportation, but also *owns the route traversed.* This is not true of any other common carrier. The rivers, the lakes, belong to the nation; any one may build himself a boat, and enter upon the carrying trade. The towns along the Mississippi, for instance, have but one route to New Orleans; yet competition is open to all. Any man may establish a line of freight or passenger boats, and underbid others in the business by lower transportation rates. The river is free to all. A farmer on its banks may, if he so chooses, build himself a raft or barge, and float his own live stock or grain down, and pay not a cent to any one one, except wharfage at whatever city he sells his produce. True, there is but one line of travel; but any one may use the facilities it offers.

With a railroad it is different. It may pass through a hundred towns having no other railroad, but it has a monopoly. The company that owns the road also operates it. If rates are exorbitant, another company cannot put engines and cars on the line, and underbid for patronage, as in the case of a river, or even an ordinary county or state road, or turnpike. No one can use the road but its owners, and they can, in a case where there is no competing road, exact almost any rate they see fit, that is not entirely prohibitory in effect.

We hope we have made it plain that the case is different with railroads from any other common carrier. The laws that govern the latter were framed for a condition of things antecedent to the railroad era—when the route was free to all, and not the property of the one carrier. They are, therefore, entirely inadequate for the railroads, which have a monopoly of their routes. We do not wish to be understood as saying that it is wrong they should do so. They built them, and own them, and it is proper they should do all the business that is done over them. But legislation should be framed to fit the case which they present. We believe we are correct in saying that no thorough law, subjecting them to complete control, has ever been adopted.

If we have made plain this point, the fallacy of the argument that the "discriminations in all other branches of business are left for competition to regulate and that is ample for the full protection of the people;" and therefore competition should be left to regulate the railroads also. From the very nature of things, there can be no real competition by rail to the greater portion of the country. Railroads are built for profit; one line is sufficient for a very large scope of country. No set of sane men are going to invest money in a road parallel to another, through a purely agricultural country, because it would never pay.

And every argument we have ever seen adduced to support this deceptive cry is fallacious also. They all draw a comparison where no comparison exists. To say that "all the papers in Chicago might combine and raise their price to ten cents per copy, but competition would compel them to come down," is to state a truism, but without any bearing on this case. A man cannot start a railroad of his own on a few thousand dollars, as he can a newspaper. Nor does the fact that a ton of freight can be sent to San Francisco cheaper, because there are four competing lines, than it could when the Union Pacific was the only one, apply to the case. A man living within twenty miles of the Union Pacific is as much at its mercy now as he was the day it was first opened. The through competition aids him not one whit. He pays far more proportionately for his short haul than if he lived in San Francisco and was doing business with the East, in which case only the competition would benefit him.

We say, again, that the statement that "legislation this subject has proved a failure in those states where it has been tried," is false, because no law has ever been enacted which was more than a makeshift. What the people demand is, legislation for common carriers who own their own lines—whether it be a canal owned by a company which will allow no boats but its own to ply thereon, or a railroad company, which, from the nature of things, can only allow its own trains to run on its tracks. This is a matter for Congress. State legislation on such a topic is only fragmentary. The question has been coming up for several years, and we feel that the fulness of time has come for its adjudication. There are no precedents, no parallel cases. The subject is *sui generis*, and the best minds of the nation must be given to its settlement. There are many grave obstacles to its legal and equitable solution, but it can be done, it must be done, and it will be done.

THE UNITED STATES LIFE INSURANCE CO.,

Publishes its 35th annual statement in the BLADE to-day. This old and well-established Company makes a gratifying exhibit, its buisness being in perfect shape, and its showing being all that its best friends could wish. There is no better company in the United States. Its Directors are among the best and most careful men in New York, and the officers in the more immediate management are, every one of them, not only skilled in the business, but men of integrity, who have demonstrated by long years' service in the various positions, their capacity and fitness. We most heartily commend the U. S. Life to all BLADE readers who are interested in Life Insurance.

MR. S. R. REED'S PAPER ON SLAVERY.

We publish in full elsewhere in this issue of the BLADE the excellent paper, by Mr. S. R. REED, of the Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette*, on "Slavery in American Politics." The author has been an attentive observer of politics during the span of a lifetime, and a thinker and writer thereupon as well. The facts collated in his paper are from his own observation, and not compiled at second hand. The article takes rank as a contribution of the first class to the political history of the Union, and no one of our readers should fail to peruse it at attentively. There is a vein of irony regarding the "divine origin" of the "peculiar institution" running through it, which serves to bring out in the strongest relief the slavery conspiracy in its efforts to retain the controlling power in the Congress of the United States, and to extend our national area on the south, to the end that the slave-cursed section should be increased, and its power be rendered permanent.

The paper is also valuable for the light it sheds on the political situation to-day. Slavery is dead, but its evil effect still lives. It cemented for so long a time the component states of a section so closely together in the effort to obtain and retain national supremacy, that the feeling of a common end and aim, to which all other ideas are subordinate, has become traditional in the South. The same feeling that its "rights" can only be secured by its keeping control of the nation, exists to-day as strongly as ever. The slavery struggle yet goes on, and the traditional policy of the South is still the animating spirit of the Democratic party to-day. The refusal of that party in the House of Representatives at the present hour to admit the southern half of Dakota into the Union, finds its exact counterpart in the refusal of the same party, 25 years ago, under slaveocrat control, to admit Kansas into the band of states. The feeling in favor of the Nicaragua treaty in the entire South at present, is a survival of the feeling which in 1845 led to the annexation of Texas, the Mexican war, and the wresting of an empire from our Southern neighbor. It is the desire to add territory to the South, that it may gain more power in Congress. South of the Ohio river, the Nicaraguan treaty is looked upon merely as the "thin edge of the wedge"—as the first step to the acquisition of Central America, and ultimately of Mexico, by this country. The feeling, too, is not a national one—that this would be to the aggrandizement of the United States; it is purely sectional—that it would give to the South more power in national councils.

Yes: though slavery be dead, its curse still hangs over us. Mr. REED'S paper is not to be considered in the light of a mere historical resume; it is but the first chapters in the history of a struggle which is still pending, and from which grave dangers to the unity and perpetuity of the Republic are to be apprehended in the future. Its interest is more than historical; it throws a light upon the past, by which the student of American politics can judge of what the future may have in store for the nation.

THE Chicago *Farm Journal* insists that there should be very many more farmers among the law-makers, both in the state legislatures and in Congress. It also adds the just proviso that "there should be more farmers thoroughly fitted and equipped to fill those positions than there are. The simple fact that a man is a farmer does not entirely qualify him to make laws. Other qualifications are required. These other qualifications being equal, a farmer is a better, because safer, law-maker than a lawyer." This is excellent as far as it goes, but it is not sufficiently generalized. The tendency seems more and more in the direction of making the profession of the law a mere stepping-stone to political preferment, and this should be checked—especially as regards law-makers. A fair proportion of lawyers is well enough, but the bulk of those bodies should be drawn from those entirely competent among the farmers and representatives of all other occupations. More practical men and fewer theorists, should be the rule.

AFTER all the gabble of the Democratic press over the decay of American shipping, the mouthings of the free traders over our protective policy, which they declared was primarily responsible therefor, it will probably be a surprise to the average reader to find that the United States is still the second maritime nation in the world, England alone leading us. The number of vessels of all kinds under our flag on June 30, 1884, was 24,082, measuring 4,271,328 tons, of an approximate value of $122,500,000. As compared with the previous year this was an increase in tonnage of 35,742. To listen to the Democratic liars one would suppose that, instead of such a showing, the American flag was practically unknown upon the high seas.

WE especially ask those who really want to destroy the Rum business to see that the BLADE has a circulation in their respective neighborhoods. There is no paper in the country that has done so much to arouse the public conscience on this question as the BLADE, and no agency can do so much. See that the BLADE is circulated at your Postoffice.

NASBY.

The 100th Pennsylvania.

The editor of the CAMP FIRE is in receipt of a neat little pamphlet called the "History of the 100th (Roundhead) regiment," containing portraits and brief biographies of Col. Dan. Leasure and Chaplain R. Audley Mahaffey, and a number of poems by Dr. Horace B. Durant, formerly a member of the 100th, and afterwards promoted to assistant surgeon of the regiment. We have also received a copy of the "Soldiers' Reunion," containing full reports of the re-unions of the 76th, 100th and 134th regiments and Battery "B" 1st Pa. artillery. James C. Johnson, esq., of New Castle, Pa., who is publisher of "Soldiers' Reunion" and "History of 100th Regiment," is anxious to get the address of all the surviving members of the 76th, 100th and 134th regiments, as well as biographical sketches of all deceased members of the 100th regiment, for the purpose of publishing a complete history of the "Roundhead regiment" with biographical sketches of its members. The price of the pamphlet history is 20c, and the "Soldiers' Reunion" 5c.

Recollections of Fort Wagner.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

In your issue of December 18, I read with much interest and profound pleasure the letter of W. L. Adamson, Co. A, 63d Ohio. While I do not remember to have known comrade Adamson personally, I can meet with particular pride to a record of four months' active service in old Co. B of the 3d regiment, and was one of the many who went into, and one of the few who came out of the Fort Wagner shooting bee, on July 18, 1863. I am under the impression that Comrade Adamson's memory is greatly at fault in making up his list of regiments that composed our brigade. Or if my own memory is at fault, I shall be glad to be corrected. Comrade Adamson says the second brigade was composed of the 62d Ohio, 67th New Hampsire, 67th Ohio and 100th Pa. New York. Now, I think our brigade was composed of the 62d Ohio, Col. F. B. Pond (now deceased), and at that time commanded by Lt. Col. C. F. Steele, Col. Pond being absent; the 67th Ohio, Col. Voris; 89th Illinois, Col. Thos. O. Osborne; and the 85th Pennsylvania, Col. J. B (old "Pap") Howell. Now if this is not correct, comrade, when were the 85th Pennsylvania and 39th Illinois put into our brigade?

Fort Wagner, as I saw it, and as now exists in my memory, was in the form of a four-bastion fort, which shape afterwards formed the characteristic feature of our corps badge. While the rebels presided there the fort never was closed on the side next to Fort Sumter, but from the water's edge up to the limit of the bomb proof was continuous with the natural slope of the beach, and if our navy should continued to bombard it to the present date, it would have made no impression, as the shot and shell, simply striking the beach, would ricochet over into the swamp. It was the cross and land mortars that kept the Johnnies in their holes.

J. J. KING, Co. B, 62d Ohio.
Ewing, Neb.

Wilson's Creek.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

In "Wilson's Creek's" letter in the BLADE of the 26th ult., he says: "No better description of that famous battle could be written. The statement is correct in every particular. Will the author of "Wilson's Creek" please give his name?

SAM HOUSTON,
Sergt Co. D, 2d K. V. I.
Lawrence, Douglass Co., Kan.

Co. F, 83d Ohio.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

Co. F, 83d O. V. I, was not transferred to another regiment, but was mustered out of service at Galveston, July 26, 1865. The 83d and 48th Ohio volunteers were consolidated at Natchez, January 8, 1865, the latter holding the number and field officers. Should this meet the eye of any of the boys of either the 83d or 48th, I should be glad to hear from them through the CAMP FIRE.

W. F. BIDDLEMAN, late Co. B, 83d O.
Thornburg, Ia.

Promoted to be Chaplain.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

I see that a subscriber at Lathrop, Mo., inquires if there is any case of a private soldier being promoted to the chaplaincy of his regiment during the civil war, and that he have one response from the 67th O. V. I. On August 7, 1862, I enlisted as a private soldier in Co. A, 84th I. V. I., Capt. William Burriss; was mustered in in September; served in the department of Ohio, in Virginia and Kentucky till February, 1863; then went to Nashville, being transferred to many of the Cumberland army's reserve corps, serving in Middle and Southern Tennessee and Northern Alabama and Georgia; was in the battle of Chickamauga, and after having carried my gun for fourteen months, was by vote of the officers of my regiment made chaplain, and then commissioned by that grand man, Gov. O. P. Morton.

F. ADDINGTON.
Sherman, Ind.

The Fight at Farmington, Miss.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

Seeing comrade G. W. Copley's article in the CAMP FIRE, on the battle of Farmington, Miss., reminds me very forcibly that I also was there. I wish to correct the comrade's statement as to the troops that took part in the engagement. He is right, according to my diary, as to the date, May 9, 1862; but he is under a mistake as to the regiments engaged. He says they were the 17th and 26th Illinois, the 11th Missouri infantry, and the 8th Wisconsin, the old "Iron Brigade" regiment; also the 24 Iowa cavalry. The comrade says that Col. Miles, of the 26th, ordered a retreat. Miles was lieutenant-Colonel of the 26th, instead of Colonel of the 24th, and a braver soldier never drew sword in defense of his country. He was killed in the action before the retreat was ordered. I don't know who gave the order to retreat. But one thing I do know—if we had not fell back when we did, a great many of us would have got an introduction to Andersonville, for the Johnnies were coming on both our flanks in overwhelming numbers. Then we fell back across the stump. The comrade speaks of the enemy following us up and shelling the woods, the balls falling and shells bursting all around us. It was the 47th boys who lost their packs there, instead of the 42d. If any of the gallant old 11th Missouri boys see this letter, I would like to hear from them.

CHARLES A. GILLIN,
Late of Co. G, 11th Missouri Infantry.
Bird Station, Ill.

A Letter to Comrade Allen's Sketch of McPherson's Death.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

In the CAMP FIRE of November 27, J. W. Allen writes what he calls a correct version of the death of Gen. McPherson, July 22, 1864. I think he must be mistaken in some points. For instance, he says: "Miller's brigade of the 16th corps was ordered to the left," when the fact is that all the 16th corps that was in the Atlanta campaign was sent to the left flank, which was two divisions, the 24 and 31, commanded respectively by Sweeney and Miller. The 31 brigade of our division, the 4th, was left at Rome, Ga., as garrison. Our regiment held the extreme left of the infantry line, and rested upon the 7th A. C. hospital, and we checked the rebels and drove them back, but had a hard fight of it. Comrade Allen also says that Cox's division of the 20th corps was sent to our assistance. That is the first I ever heard of it. I think that history says that the army of the Tennessee fought that battle without any help from any other portion of Sherman's troops. More than that, Cox commanded a division in the 23d corps at that time, and afterward commanded the 23d corps, and Gen G. M. Dodge commanded the 16th corps at that time.

I would like to hear from some of my old comrades on this subject.

C. C. GAINES.
Co. E, 21 Div., 16th Corps, and afterwards
5th Div., 15th Corps.
Pueblo, Colorado.

A Comrade from Washington Territory Speaks.

To the Editor of the Blade Camp Fire:

Well, comrades, as I sit here alone, watching it snowing, and reading the CAMP FIRE and the good old BLADE, my thoughts revert back twenty years ago, and in the year and a

Correspondence.

LONDON LETTER.

A Queer Kind of Census—Rough on the Chicago Girl—A Decree of Fashion.

Special Correspondence of the Blade.

LONDON, Dec. 13, 1884.

The loyal people of this great and glorious country are already talking of celebrating the jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign, in 1887, which will be completed on June 20, of that year. The attendants upon the Court have already begun to make arrangements to keep the festival in the grandest style with all material honors. The last royal jubilee England had was in 1809, when George III was King. That was merrily kept. But it is proposed to make the whole season of 1887 a series of recognition of her Majesty's long reign. Many ideas are already afloat—and the one which has most likelihood of being adopted is the use of the parks for a great show. The scheme has not yet taken shape, but there is talk of reproduction on a large scale *a la* Old London at the Healtheries. Then a whole week is to be spent in carnival. June 20 is to be kept as a national holiday, and every form of amusement is to be provided. It seems early yet to think of what will be done in 1887, but if any of the magnificent ideas now afloat are adopted much preparation will be necessary. Parliament will have to be asked for money for any such national fair as that contemplated in Hyde park.

BEER VERSUS BIBLE.

The members of the Tolmer-square Help-Myself Society took a Beer-Bible census the other day, taking twelve public houses and twelve churches in the same locality within the Hampton-road and Euston-road, and comparing the numbers of the votaries of the publican with the votaries of the parson. The results are somewhat startling. It might be premised that from the denominational view the census does not profess to be an indication of the strength of parties. The object was not to pose in comparison the sects, but those who worship Bacchus and those who worship God. The result was to show that on Saturday night between nine and twelve there was more than 10,000 customers for the publican, and only 8,709 attendants upon public worship. Of the 10,000, 6,584 were men, 2,762 women, and 654 children. Of the worshippers on Sunday 2,656 went to the Church of England, 2,181 were Congregationalists, 1,985 Baptists, 601 Wesleyan, and the remainder undenominational. It is estimated that there are six public houses to one church or chapel in London; but the Help-Myself Society's investigations prove that in St. Pancras the proportion is higher. With the object of eliciting public opinion a conference is to be held to consider these statistics.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

A well known Chicago young lady who has been quite a belle here and at the watering places the past few months, entered a railway carriage at Brighton last week. Her aristocratic manner and rich elaborate toilet seemed somewhat out of place in the plebeian surroundings of the third-class railway carriage which she entered. Drawing her skirts about her, she retired as far as possible into a corner, and gazed persistently out of the window. On the opposite side was a neatly attired young man, with very white hands and an air generally suggestive of the clergy. He glanced at the fair vision in the corner from time to time in a reproachful manner. She looked furtively at him from beneath her lashes, and with a pretty puckering of her brow, seemed trying to recall where she had met him. That his face was familiar was evident, and finally, declaring that he rightfully belonged to the army of captives that had laid their hearts at her feet at Scarborough last August, she continued to cast his misery by recognizing him. He was well dressed and apparently well bred. So, turning with a little start of recognition, their eyes met, and she bowed stiffly. He seemed delighted, and rose to take a seat by her side, he said, "You do me very kind to remember me." "Oh, no," she replied, with an air of polite reserve, "I recall perfectly the occasion on which we met." A few commonplaces followed, and emboldened at his success, the gentleman said gravely, as he produced a card, "I hope you will permit me to call upon you again." She glanced at the card, a wave of color swept over her face, and the train stopping, she drew down her veil and bounced out of the carriage with the swiftness of a tennis ball. The address upon the card read—"H. Bullfinch, Chiropodist. Corns and bunions extracted without pain."

FAREWELL SWALLOW-TAILS.

Over in Paris the swells are trying to do away with the regulation black swallow-tail dress coat, which is worn by the waiters in the slightest cafes and gendarmes in the street corners. The campaign is being vigorously fought, and the disciples of reform will doubtless win. The red coat and breeches were accepted last season in the ceremonial meetings of high society. This season variety is to be obtained by the introduction of the zinc coat and brass buttons, white waistcoat and gray trousers, and powdered hair, which latter detail will be considered *extra-chic*; and by the brown coat and brass buttons, shawl-pattern waistcoat, brown cloth breeches, garters fastened with a diamond buckle, and square-toed high-heeled shoes. The black coat will be worn by the *pschuttteur* only at the theatre, and in places where the uncalled for remarks of the cads might mar the serenity of the spectacle of contemporary calves.

PAUL CHAFUIS.

The Knobs of East Tennessee.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

As I have many letters from divers persons living in the North and West, inquiring about the country here, and many of the correspondents forgetting to enclose the necessary stamps to pay for paper and postage, I am taking it upon you to help me out and also to save much valuable time, to answer all of these.

There is not a day in the 365 of the year in which a healthy man can not work out of doors in his shirt-sleeves (unless it happens to be raining) comfortably. We have no extreme heat or cold in Marion county. I have lived here 35 years, except when in the United States army, three years, and while I was travelling over some of the other states hunting a better country, which was always just about, and like the "Jack-o'-lantern," kept moving so I could not quite reach it, though it seemed almost within my grasp; so I came back to old Marion, and settled on the same old "Flat Rock," which, if has no other recommendation, has a "firm foundation." Marion county is a health country, plenty of pure water, chalybeate and sulphur water, limestone and freestone water, iron, coal, timber of nearly every variety known to the United States, water power to run machinery if any one is enterprising enough to start it; thousands of acres of wild land can be had at from $1 to $10 per acre on the mountain, and the timber on it can be cut off, made into rails, and fenced, cleared ready for the plow, at from $10 to $25 per acre, for having to how it is to be cleared. The same quality of lands are worth in the valley about double the price of land on the mountain. Some of the valley lands are worth $100 per acre, owing to quality and proximity to market and railroads. There are several flouring and corn mills and saw mills in the county, a large iron foundry and machine shops at South Pittsburg, and plenty of iron and coal to supply half a dozen others. Rich, arable land to raise corn, oats, wheat, rye, potatos, cabbages, beans, etc., to feed hands to run the iron works, dig coal, etc.; clover, grass, etc., to feed milch cows for dairymen, to supply beef, mutton, bacon, eggs, etc., for table comforts. We want manufacturers to come and make plows, hoes, axes, wagons, broom-corn, buckets, shoes, cloth (we raise cotton, too), hats (we have fur and wool). Hickory, ash, oak, chestnut, poplar, walnut, cedar, pine, sweet gum and other timber, suitable for ax-handles, wagon timber, threshing machines, etc., and we need some one to come and put up shops to manufacture them. And we want farmers to come and raise something to feed them while they are doing it. We also want settlers to come and clear up the wilderness and make it bloom as the rose of Sharon.

We are overstocked with cheap, wild lands. "It is overdone," as the business men say. Send some of your neighbors down to see for themselves; do not take my word for it. When you make up your mind to move, enough of you come to make your own school houses, shoes, socks, hats, coats, breeches, wagons, axes, etc., etc. The material are all here ready, and waiting for the handicraft of the artisan. Come in in colonies of tens, twenties, fifties and hundreds—do not be afraid of overcrowding. There is lots of room for fifteen or twenty thousand. First come, first served. Apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, blackberries, strawberries and cream, clover, grass, all grow and do well on the mountain. Railroad and telegraph to Tracy City, and good wagon road to Flat Rock, five miles from Tracy City. Take train to Tracy City, Tennessee, hack at livery stable, or "walker's line" to the Rock, where the latch-string hangs outside the door. Pull the string and walk in. Do not stand upon ceremony but come along. It won't cost much to come and see. If it don't suit you after seeing it, go somewhere else. As you have not much time to lose if you are going to break up and settle somewhere else to live. As it will not be a great while till you will have to set your crop for next year. We now oats, plant Irish potatoes, and start our garden truck in March; plant corn in April, cotton ditto, and many other things to live on. If you settle in the woods you will have lots of work to do, clearing and fencing land, building log cabins, etc. I repeat, don't take my word for it; come and see. If you write to me and expect an answer, send at least two 3-cent postage stamps. As I have no land to sell, and am not so philanthropic as to want to pay out stamps to answer three or four letters every day. It amounts to something in the run of a year.

AMOS L. GRIFFITH.

Tracy City, Tenn.

The Social Condition of Women in Europe.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

In your issue of the 18th inst. there appeared an article regarding the social condition of the French, English, Irish and German farmers, which was copied from the New York Sun. It says that the wife of a French, English, Irish or German farmer has no work to do at home; that they do not keep house like the wives of American farmers; that they live in the same building with horses, cattle, pigs, etc.; in fact he goes on to say they are brutes. Now if this highly enlightened correspondent of the Sun did find such a state of things to exist in the part of France he visited, why should he say all of France, all of Germany, and all of Great Britain, is in the same condition? In every country there are found people in every grade of life, and as a rule the poorer they are the more uncomfortable, harder worked and dirtier they are.

If the United States is better off in this respect there are ample causes for it. The poor people in America are not as poor, generally speaking, as they are in the over-crowded European countries, and the majority of them are emigrants from Europe; and though poverty caused them to emigrate, it is only the better classes who have the means and ambition to do so. Anybody would infer from that article that outside of America there are no farm houses, that the people all lived in barns and kennels, and that they are no women, they all being brutes.

E. M.

Mapleton, Dak.

[The item referred to was clipped, as is said above, from the New York Sun; and we had no idea that any one would infer that it meant all farmers' wives in Europe, or in fact any but the very poorest class of people.—ED. BLADE.]

The Growth of Chattanooga.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

I was induced to emigrate to this city by reading "Nasby in the South." His favorable description induced me to come here instead of going to some other locality in the South. I have now been here almost two months, and I must say that I am strongly impressed with the idea that Chattanooga is destined to be the metropolis of the South. Its facilities for manufactures and commerce are simply immense, and the river, mountain and valley scenery is magnificent beyond description. Coming, as I do, from the Miami valley, the mountain country does not impress me favorably as a farming country. We find, however, that these hills and valleys are to a great extent fertile, and only require careful and proper cultivation to yield very satisfactory results, the soil yielding all the different fruits of Ohio, the same kinds of grain and grass, also cotton, peanuts, etc. The climate is mild and healthful. The minimum thermometer thus far this winter was 12° above zero, we have but little snow or ice. For all kinds of live stock this climate is certainly excellent. Domestic fowls do well. Good springs are numerous throughout the country, and wells may also be easily obtained.

SAMUEL PACKLER.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Central Texas.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

As I have not seen anything from this section, I will give some items. This is a rolling prairie country, with a variety of soils, including black waxy, sandy grey, and black in the bottoms. There is plenty of timber on the streams—pin oak, burr oak, elm, etc., in the bottoms, post oak, etc., on the uplands, bordering streams. Improved lands are worth from $10 to $20 an acre; unimproved, $5 to $10. The climate is variable—summer one day and winter the next, (what we call winter,) during the winter months, and in the summer regular hot weather; but not so oppressive as some imagine.

Corsicana, the county seat of Navarro county, is a town of 4,000 inhabitants, with a cotton compress, cotton seed oil mill, and the round house of the Houston & Texas Central railroad, two public schools, one for white, the other colored; water works, two railroads, the Houston & Texas Central and the Texas & St. Louis. Health about the same as found in Ohio and Indiana, with the exception of consumption of the lungs. Cotton is the principal crop, but corn, wheat, &c., do well. Cotton makes one-half to three-fourths of a bale to the acre, of ordinary seasons; corn, 25 to 30 bushels; oats, 30 to 40 bushels. People have to work hard here, as well as in other states, and can make money here as well as there.

W. H. HAMILTON.

Corsicana, Tex

How Some People Live in Florida.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

Remote from any human habitation, isolated from the world—where no person is ever seen except at rare intervals, when a distant neighbor comes to borrow something, or ask aid in case of sickness or death—where the daily routine of the female portion of the family and the children is to cook, wash, scour, farm and tend to the stock, which routine is varied only by a trip once or twice a year to "meetin'," or to town, perhaps 25 miles away, to trade. The men, when not busy with their crops or stock, (if stock owners), hunt, and if they have a horse, ride around; if not, take a stroll. Life is sustained by living on sweet potatoes, pears, honey, and such poultry and hogs as can be raised, with perhaps the killing of an occasional deer or turkey. A family of four will use, at a rough estimate in the course of a year, about as follows: Eight bushels potatoes, worth 50 cents a bushel, $4; meal of some sort, about one-quarter the time, say 20 lbs., $2; coffee and tobacco per month, and as all hands generally use it very freely, this is a heavy item, about $3; salt, ammunition and other little necessaries, $1; making a total per month of $10. Then for clothing, cloth at from 5 to ten cents per yard, shoes at $1.25, expected to last a year, the women and children going barefooted, though the women wear shoes abroad, makes the shoe bill not exceeding $2.50 per year, and clothing not over $10. Rough palmetto hats are plaited at home. Absolute necessaries are obtained by trading potatoes, honey, wax, eggs, etc., at the nearest store. Money is seldom seen, as produce is only taken by the stores in exchange for goods, the prices being fixed by the storekeeper. This is life on the frontier. Reader, do you like it?

J. F. BISHOP.

Sarasota, Florida.

About Over-Production.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

I quite agree with the editorial in your issue of the 1st inst. on "Diversify Your Industries." This is in conformity with sound political economy, and should be the objective point of our legislation. The same sound principle is as good for the nation as for the people of a state or a section. Trade, like charity, should commence at home. The free traders in this country are prescribing continually their quack nostrum, the foreign trade, as a panacea for over-production, notwithstanding the fact, undoubtedly known to them, that the whole amount of the world's commerce which England has succeeded in controlling, through the long credits given, or the low prices asked for inferior, adulterated articles, has never exceeded $1,200,000,000 (our own *home* commerce amounts to $7,000,000,000). If we should attempt to wrest from England, through a radical reduction of the tariff, any portion of her foreign trade, she would do to us, undoubtedly, what she did in regard to the Irish markets, immediately after the forcible consummation of the infamous union of 1800, i. e. she undersold Ireland, at an immense loss to herself and that country, in order to maintain her manufacturing supremacy. Until American merchants see it is for their advantage to sell goods at twelve to eighteen months' credit, or at a loss, or can materially increase the eating capacity, by creating more stomach space, of those who now consume our grain and farm produce, there will be no permanent markets being essentially increased. The continued cry for the commerce of the world reminds one of the hallucination of the early Spanish discoverers in their attempts to find in America "la laguna de juvented" (the lake of youth) and the "El Dorado."

The only cure for over-production is to be found in the increase of home consumption, which can be created only by the establishment of new channels for labor, by which the operatives therein would enhance the demand for the products of the older industries, and the professional and manual services of the other classes of labor.

We can and should manufacture all the sugar we consume, from sorghum, beet root, and a more extended cultivation of sugar-cane, which would increase our annual products millions of dollars, and employ thousands of agricultural and mechanical workingmen. There is the tin plate manufactory, which, if properly protected, would employ a large number of laborers; besides which there are other industries the establishment of which would give employment to our own people. The immense sums that it is imperative to expend for the rehabilitation of our commerce by subsidies, the building up of our navy, the improvement of our vast water ways, the reduction of the alarming illiteracy of the freedmen of the South, would employ thousands of workmen, who would in turn consume not only all we can produce now, but establish more farms and manufactories. When will the members of Congress and political economists, as a whole, stop playing the roles of politicians, and cease practicing "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," and treat the vital national questions of the hour from the standpoint of an enlightened and honest statesmanship? Today, certainly, we are far from that "consummation devoutly to be wished." If, instead of wasting time and argument in search of the unattainable, the so-called revenue reformers who are so indefatigable in obscuring the truth, would devote their talents and energies to advocating an extension of our home commerce over-production would speedily disappear, and the whole country would become as busy as a hive, poverty would wing its flight from the land, and our people would look toward the future with hope and encouragement.

CHARLES E. ENDICOTT.

Brookline, Mass.

Does Artillery Firing Produce Rain?

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

In the army it was the understanding that heavy artillery firing brought on rain. My own experience or observation hardly carries out that idea as a fact to be depended on. I am positive that the second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg battles were followed immediately by hard rains before the troops were out of line. In all these battles artillery was used freely. In the Wilderness campaign under Grant but little artillery was used. The dozen days spent at Cold Harbor had plenty of artillery practice. My own and others' remembrance is that it was very dry, and a fall of rain would have been very acceptable. During the first few months of the siege of Petersburg, covering the time of the Burnside mine explosion, it was very dry. Water was a luxury, to be had in abundance only if we could get the opportunity to dig for it. Here was combined heavy and field guns, mortars and explosion, that all failed to produce a fall of rain. The final dash and race from Petersburg to Appomattox, in the first days of April, had all the rain, mud, marching and fighting necessary to make it just lovely soldiering. I remember several times, before a shot had been fired, when it rained hard enough and long enough to break up the movement of the army. For instance, Burnside's mud march of January, 1863, Mine Run, under Meade, etc. If this will help to throw any light on the question of artillery firing producing a fall of rain, yours are welcome to it.

LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Toledo, O.

The following has been received from another correspondent:

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

In a late issue the question is asked, "Does cannonading cause rain?" The remarks following the question by Mr. W. J. C. Foster and the editor, lead me to suggest that a very practical experiment in time of drouth would settle the question, by some four or five parties in a heavy timber section would blow out ten or more acres of stumps each with dynamite—five or six in different parts of a county. The benefit of clearing the land of the stumps would more than compensate the parties for the expense. If all the parties would perform the work at the same time, I think it would settle the question, and be a benefit in place of loss.

E. REYNOLDS.

Metomen, Wis.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

So far as I know, in regard to the late war, all battles of a few hours' duration, and attended with much heavy cannonading, were followed by rainfall and frequently the rain would mix in with the fight, regardless of the condition of the weather before the battle. Many of the boys who were ignorant of physical laws believed such rains to come direct from the hand of God, for the benefit of the wounded. I will only mention a few of the battles that I know were attended by rain.

The sharp little fight at Campbell's Station, East Tennessee, was followed by a big rain; then every time we raised a big racket about Knoxville there would be rain; then there was Dalton, Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Buzzard Roost, Allatoona and the 22d of July, where we lost our brave McPherson; then around Atlanta. These battles were all followed by more or less rain, some of them by heavy rains. One of the most terrific rain storms I was ever in, was the afternoon of the night we drew away from Lovejoy Station, where we had used some very sharp artillery. There was a heavy rain just after the Franklin (last) fight, though we did not stay to get the benefit of it. But ask some of the boys if they got the benefit of the big rain after the heavy artillery fight at Nashville, December 22.

JOHN T. PRIEST, Co. G, 107th Illinois.

Dewitt, Ills.

Pres. Arthur and the Presidential Election——His Position Fairly Stated.

Sen. Hawley has furnished for publication the following statement:

I have been several times interviewed concerning statements and discussions in newspapers relating to the management of the Republican National committee, and various references to the attitude of Pres. Arthur in the late campaign, and an editorial in the *National Republican* of January 3 particularly calls upon me to testify concerning certain interviews with him. I do so cheerfully, as he has certainly been misunderstood. At the headquarters of the Republican National committee in New York, early in August last—I have no means of fixing the precise day—during a conversation between certain members of the committee and myself, something was said about the position of Pres. Arthur, and the desirability of obtaining some additional manifestation of sympathy and co-operation from him, both for the sake of its general effect and its local influence on his political associates in New York. In response to the suggestion I said I was quite willing to speak to him about it at the first opportunity, and I did soon afterwards, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where he was then staying. He answered frankly and cordially. In some cases I can give his precise phrase. In all respects the true intent and spirit of what he said was as follows:

"Certainly I am willing to do or say anything that reason and the proprieties of my position may permit. I participated in the organization of the Republican party, and have been an active, zealous and devoted Republican ever since. If I ever scratched a single name on the Republican ticket I don't remember it. Those who are sometimes designated as my 'friends,' my associates in many vigorous campaigns, so far as I know, are right. I hope that is true of every one of them, or if it is not that it will be. During the contest for the nomination some of Mr. Blaine's friends said things not agreeable to me, and probably the same is true of some of my friends in relation to him. Differences before the convention have nothing to do with our duty now. Instantly upon the nomination of Mr. Blaine I telegraphed him assurance of my cordial support, and I continue in that purpose. In my opinion the success of the Democratic party would be a very great misfortune to the country. I hope everybody knows these are my opinions. The only doubtful point is as to whether it is of any use to state them. All this ought to be taken for granted. Remember the French proverb, *'Quis excuse saccuse.'* Manufacturing an opportunity to justify myself might tempt people to say, 'Well, what of it? Who said anything to the contrary?' But I am willing to leave this question of expediency to my friends."

To obviate any objection to the President making a statement on his own behalf, I remarked I should be questioned as soon as I returned to the Republican headquarters, and I might answer by repeating what is quoted above, save so much as is in brackets, and letting the press have it in the form of an interview, saying that the President authorized me to print it.

"Certainly," replied the president: "I have not the least objection in the world to your giving that to anybody, publicly or privately, now or at a later day, as representing my attitude."

I hastily wrote a brief statement in accordance with this idea, and the President said: "That is entirely satisfactory." I returned to headquarters before long and reported the conversation to Mr. Jones, chairman of the National committee, with whom was either Mr. Elkins or Mr. Chaffee. The matter was discussed; it was acknowledged there was force in what the President said about the expediency of any statement that might look like self-defense in advance, and it was agreed that the subject might as well be temporarily laid aside, and that a moment might arrive in a week or two when a statement might be more appropriate and useful.

I again went to the President's hotel; he was out, or busy, and I left for him a hasty, undated memorandum, written on an envelope, of which the following is a true copy:

"MR. PRESIDENT—I have had a pleasant conversation with Mr. Jones, and his views are as near your own as if you two had been conferring. I concur entirely, and shall say or do nothing about the matter. Possibly, a fortnight hence, there may be more value in something of the kind.

"Respectfully,

"HAWLEY."

I went away, engaging actively in the campaign, and did nothing more in the business, though I met the President afterward, during the naval exercises at Newport. Only casual reference was made to the subject there. The campaign is over; the Republicans are defeated; I respectfully submit that criticisms and recriminations are not profitable. The Republican National committee worked with the most admirable zeal and energy, and I doubt not is fully conscious that it had a deeply earnest desire to do exactly the right thing, always considering the tremendous difficulties that developed themselves. The result was a splendid demonstration of the vitality of the Republican party.

Soon after Gen. Arthur succeeded to the Presidency, referring to some newspaper speculation about his purposes, he said: "One thing I do mean to do. I mean to make it possible for the Republican party to carry the Presidential election in 1884." I think he did that. "Let us have peace."

J. R. HAWLEY.

Armed Socialists.

It is understood that the fact has been clearly disclosed that a number of armed companies of Socialists are regularly drilling in Chicago, and that they number about 700 men. They are equipped with breech-loading rifles, and drill according to Prussian tactics. The entire practice is contrary to the state law.

Under a Cloud.

The Lawrence, Mass., *Telegram* publishes a statement that the outgoing government has overdrawn its accounts $84,000. Added to this are outstanding bills to the amount of $16,000. The government borrowed from the Spricket river and improvement fund $75,000 to meet the deficiency. The treasurer's books verify the charge.

Measures for the relief of Grant's personal effects, trophies, etc., are in favorable progress, with the expectation of an early satisfactory result. Consultations upon the legal aspects of the business are still going on, and Mr. Childs, of Philadelphia, goes to New York on business connected with the subject.

[FAC-SIMILE OF TYPE-WRITER LETTER.]

TO THE PUBLIC, GREETING:

Boards of Health are now everywhere correcting the faults of sewerage and advising the people how to prevent future epidemics.

But other precautions are necessary, without which no amount of Sanitation can avail. Dr. Koch says that cholera has but little chance among those who keep the digestive organs and the liver, skin and kidneys (the sewers of the body) in healthful operation.

Warner's SAFE Remedies are the best scientific Curatives and Preventives, and we cannot too much emphasize the importance of using them now, as a safeguard against any future scourge

Much of the common ailments are caused, not primarily by bad blood, but by IMPAIRED LIVER AND KIDNEYS. This results in blood corruption and injury to the entire system. Remove this impaired action, and most ordinary ailments will disappear. Other practitioners have held that extreme liver and kidney disorders are incurable. We, however, by the severest tests, have unanswerably proved the contrary. Please note:

FIRST.--WE DO NOT CURE EVERY KNOWN DISEASE FROM ONE BOTTLE. Warner's Safe Remedies are specifics, which have been successively put upon the market ONLY IN OBEDIENCE TO STRONG PUBLIC DEMAND. These remedies are: Warner's SAFE Cure, for kidney, liver, bladder and blood disorders, General debility, Impotency, gravel, female irregularities; Warner's Safe Diabetes Cure, for Diabetes—the only known specific; Warner's Safe Rheumatic Cure for Rheumatism, Neuralgia; Warner's Safe Pills for constipation, diarrhoea, biliousness; Warner's Safe Nervine for nervous disorders; Warner's Safe Throatine for Asthma, catarrh; Warner's Tippecanoe for all stomach derangements.

SECOND.--Warner's Safe Remedies, spite of all opposition, have won the victory and are everywhere recognized as leading STANDARDS.

THIRD.-After six years of unequalled experience, we give these unqualified guarantees:

GUARANTEE I.--That Warner's Safe Remedies are pure, harmless, effective.

GUARANTEE II.--That the Testimonials used by us, so far as we know, are bona fide, with a forfeit of $5,000 for proof to the contrary.

GUARANTEE III.--That Warner's Safe Remedies are NOT MERELY TEMPORARY, BUT PERMANENT, IN THEIR CURATIVE EFFECTS AND WILL SUSTAIN EVERY CLAIM, IF USED SUFFICIENTLY AND PRECISELY AS DIRECTED.

FOURTH.--Special inquiry among hundreds of our oldest patients results in unequivocal testimony that the cures wrought six, five, four and three years ago, were PERMANENT. And most of these Patients were pronounced INCURABLE when they began Warner's Safe Remedies. Read a few of Thousands of examples:

ELDER JAMES S. PRESCOTT, Box 262, Cleveland, Ohio, founder of North Union Shakers: In 1878 was pronounced incurably sick of chronic Bright's disease, by the best physicians. Then he resorted to Warner's SAFE Cure. March 12, 1883, wrote: "Health never better. Just past 80th year." Oct. 18, 1884: "I am enjoying a very comfortable degree of health." He says also, "I am an enthusiast over Warner's SAFE Cure." Used 4 doz. bottles.

James S. Prescott.

MRS. HELEN LEIKEM, West McHenry, Ill., two years ago used Warner's SAFE Cure and SAFE Nervine for complete nervous prostration. August, 1884, she wrote "I have never enjoyed such good health; have had no return of my old trouble."

Helen Leikem

S. A. GETTYS, Insurance agent, Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1879 was attacked with vertigo, which for two years and a half periodically affected him. He was a chronic sufferer from dyspepsia. He had the best medical attendance without success. In 1883 he was cured by Warner's SAFE Cure, and writing Dec. 5th, 1884, from East Liverpool, Ohio, he said "I have never had the least trouble since I used Warner's SAFE Cure, which benefited me permanently."

S. A. Gettys.

THE REV. JAMES WAXHAM, of La Porte, Ind., in Jan., 1882, used Warner's SAFE Cure for Bright's disease and after four months treatment says he was as well as ever. June 28th, 1884, he wrote, "My health is fully restored, and I am free from annoyance from my old complaint."

Jame. Waxham

R. H. MCMICHAEL, of Emporia, Kans., in 1880, while living at South Bend, Ind., had inflammation of the bowels and a hard lump formed on his right side covering half the abdomen. Forty doctors examined him, five treated him but gave him no hope of cure. He lost sixty-five pounds of flesh. June 1st, 1881, he began using Warner's SAFE Cure, 23 bottles of which fully restored his health. July 15th, 1884, he wrote, "My cure is permanent. I was a living skeleton, who was restored by the use of Warner's SAFE Cure."

R. H. McMichael

JOHN W. MAPES, M. D., Paris, Ill., used Warner's SAFE Cure in 1880 and Nov. 24th, 1884, he said "my kidney trouble cured then, remains so to this day."

John W. Mapes M.D.

EDWIN FAY, Esq., Davenport, Ia., in 1881 had Bright's disease and doctors said he could not live six months. Dec. 4th, 1884, he wrote, "Warner's SAFE Cure used as directed, will cure any case of Bright's disease. I am now free from any kidney disorder."

Edwin Fay

FIFTH.-It is no small satisfaction to us to know that very many thousands of people owe their life and health to Warner's Safe Remedies.

Rochester, N.Y., Jan. 1, 1885.

H. H. Warner & Co.

[EDITORIAL NOTE: The above is, we believe, the first fac-simile type-writer letter which has been used in public print, and it is certainly very striking.]

Heroine and Hero.

The wife of Dr. Walter M. Fleming, was in her rooms in New York Saturday when a lace curtain caught fire from a gas burner. Mrs. Fleming pulled the burning curtain down and attempted to trample out the flames. Her hair and clothing caught fire, which also extended to the furniture. Her husband's mother was lying ill and helpless on the upper floor. Mrs. Fleming closed the doors, so the old lady might not be alarmed. The lady then sent in a telegraphic alarm to the police and fire departments, and pluckily rang up the servants, who succeeded in getting neighbors to carry Dr. Fleming's mother out. The physician's wife was badly burned about the face, and the damage to furniture and fixtures is estimated at $5,000.

Two boys, 13 or 14 years of age, broke through the ice at Lynn, Mass., and found themselves struggling in the deepest part. The only person near was a little boy named Elmer Dwyer, who is but 13 years of age. Hearing the cries of the lads, Elmer ran for help, and, finding no one at hand, took a ladder from the yard of John A. Moulton and hastened back to the pond. The brave little fellow succeeded, after several heroic attempts, in placing the ladder on the treacherous ice and crawling over it to the boys. He was able in some way to get the boys on the ladder and thence to the shore, though a lad of very slight strength and not very good health. The only grown persons in the neighborhood were women, and but for the prompt assistance of little Elmer, the boys must have drowned.

Mormon Schools.

In the school tax case at Salt Lake, the Gentiles opposed the collection of the tax because they claim that the schools are sectarian. A witness swore that Mormons only could get employment as teachers. These were required to close the schools on the Mormon fast day every month, and they must pay tithing and open with Mormon prayers. A deposition was read from the assistant teacher at Spanish Fork, stating that two theological classes in the public schools are reported as history classes, and that the public funds are used to pay the tuition of the Mormon teachers of the Brigham Young theological seminary. Prof. Lincoln testified that he visited the public school at Ogden. The teacher made the pupils recite the Mormon catechism. There was a large volume of similar testimony.

"Don't Look for Me."

James G. Scrugham, teller and assistant cashier of the Lexington City, Ky., national bank, has defaulted for about $40,000 and fled to Canada. He has been taking money by piecemeal for months, and covering his tracks by false footings of addition. He only fled when the bank examiner came to examine the bank's books, on its application for a twenty years' renewal of the charter. Scrugham bet heavy on Blaine, and also speculated in stocks. He is about 30, has a wife and children, whom he left. He was also a member of the Christian church. He left a note to the bank examiner, saying: "Am $37,000 short, and am off for Canada. Don't look for me or the money." It is thought the defalcation will exceed $40,000.

$1 CAPITAL PRIZE $75,000.

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L. S. L.

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1	do	10,000
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5	do 2000	10,000
10	do 1000	10,000
20	do 500	10,000
100	do 200	20,000
300	do 100	30,000
500	do 50	25,000
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9	Approximation Prizes of $750		6,750
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Mrs. Emma H. Wallace, hailing from Chicago, has brought suit in New York to recover one-thirtieth of the real estate held by Trinity church. She offers to settle for $4,600,000 cash. Her father, Cornelius D. Thorpe, spent $60,000 in similar litigation.

FERRY'S SEED ANNUAL FOR 1885

INVALUABLE TO ALL! Will be mailed FREE to all applicants and to customers of last year without ordering it. It contains illustrations, prices, descriptions and directions for planting all Vegetable and Flower SEEDS, BULBS, etc.

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The Household.

MISS EMILY S. BOUTON, EDITOR,

CORRESPONDENTS will please observe the following rules: 1. Write "Household" on the envelope.

2. Give your full name and address, not for publication unless desired, but for reference in case it is necessary to address you by mail.

3. Write on one side of the paper. Write plainly. Be concise. Write briefly.

WOMAN'S WORK.

WHAT CAN SHE DO?

XII.

Connected with all large job printing offices are book binderies and in these, all over the country, girls and women are employed to do a large portion of the labor. The work is not hard; most of it is done sitting and the employment is steady, that is, there is rarely any portion of the year when they are compelled to be idle, thus being obliged to turn to something else to support themselves in the interim, or to live upon what they have already earned, if indeed they have been provident enough to lay anything by for the almost certain rainy day. The workrooms are usually light, airy apartments, which are, therefore, healthful and pleasant. The trade is easily learned, and makes but small demands upon the physical strength, considering the number of hours which are occupied.

Naturally there are drawbacks, or, perhaps, I ought to unkindly say in this instance, there is a drawback. An ambitious girl has but little chance of any promotion beyond a certain point. When she has become enough of an adept to be employed in what is called gold-laying, she has gone as far as she can go, or as far as she has yet—except in the rarest instances—been allowed to advance. It is the custom all over the country to employ male foremen, and an inquirer is always told that the work would be too hard for a woman, yet I find that in one large establishment in New York—and there may be others there and elsewhere—a woman does occupy that position and she fills it to the satisfaction of her employer. However, an instance of that kind is, so far, exceptional but the fact that one has been able to raise and hold the place, gives promise that the door thus opened will not close again.

A girl or woman who enters a bindery should have a fairly good English education, as that reminds me that I have been asked what I mean by that term, for it may have a merely relative application, what is good in one place being poor in another. The idea I intend to convey now, and hereafter, is the ability to read, write and spell correctly, to be well grounded in the principles of the grammar and arithmetic, and to have an intelligent comprehension of the current news of the day. A girl may fold, paste, bind, etc., with even less than this, if she be by nature severely accurate, but as I have said before, the world over as a rule, the better the education, if it be practical, the better the work accomplished, physical and mental qualities being the same.

To return. Besides the education, quickness and accuracy are necessary. The first is a gift common to most women, while the latter is many times wanting. That is one of the complaints brought against the sex, in relation to their employment in many of the avocations hitherto monopolized by men.

"They never do things twice alike," said one employer to me, "or not very often," he added, correcting himself as he eye fell upon an intelligent looking girl working diligently a short distance from where we were standing. "There is one, though," he continued, "who is invariably correct, and I would rather have her work than that of any man in my employ, but she is an exception. Usually they seem to feel that a quarter of an inch one way or the other doesn't matter, when it causes a world of trouble. It's natural to 'em, I suppose."

Well, I did not think it was any more natural than any other bad habit which has grown so old as to seem inborn. It comes from an entire lack of training in precision. It comes from such customs as measuring a yard upon the fingers or by stretching the arm out at full length counting it off from the tip of the nose to the forefinger and thumb, of taking a piece of butter the size of an egg, a pinch of salt, as much flour as can be stirred in with a spoon, and a hundred and one other things common in the household machinery. Given to the generations of centuries that sort of training, and who can wonder at inaccuracy. With the learning that the mechanical pursuits of men necessitate, women would be equally exact.

I am speaking of this at length because the complaint has been made to me so often, and it was one particularly mentioned in a bindery I lately visited. It is of the utmost importance that the folding be true to a line or mischief is done. As that is one of the very first things women are put to work at when entering an establishment, the necessity of great painstaking in this direction from the beginning is apparent. And I would right here urge upon mothers generally to teach their girls accuracy in whatever they undertake to do, no matter whether it is important in that special thing or not.

Girls may begin to learn this trade as young as fourteen or sixteen years, but those very much older are found at work in these establishments, sometimes even the middle aged and old. At first they work by the piece, and in some places continue to do so in all the departments, except that of collating. This is the most important work next to gold-laying. The collater, you understand, gathers together the folded leaves or sections of the book and sees that the pages run right before it is given into the hands of the sewer.

It takes two or three years to learn the work thoroughly. In large cities the beginners will make from $2 to $4 a week; in smaller places somewhat less. The average earnings for the year in the former is from $6 to $7 a week; in the latter about $4.50 in rare cases rising to $6. This, it is to be understood, is for folding, binding, pasting and sewing. For collating the pay is usually $8 a week; as also for gold-laying. The working day is ten hours long, that is from seven in the morning until twelve at noon, and from one until six at evening. Saturday the day ends at five o'clock. In some places nine and a half hours constitute a day's work.

Of course there are those who earn more than the sums named. Girls who work by the piece averages sometimes $9 a week, and upward. These are the exceptions and not the rule.

Not long since I was talking with the foreman of a bindery, a man with large experience in the business, intelligent and observing. Toward the close of the conversation, I asked him what were the principal hindrances which his experience had taught him laid in the way of women being as efficient as men and earning the same wages. It was the same old story that I had heard in the job office with reference to type setting.

"If it were not that we get them cheaper we should not bother" he said. "Many of them live at home and are only working to get a little spending money to buy clothes and furbelows with, until they get married. They don't go at the work as boys do, it meaning a life time occupation and way to independence, so of course they do not take the interest. Even if there is one who is smart and anxious to know all there is to learn, just as she gets so she is really valuable to us along comes some man who marries and takes her away. You can see for yourself that it's not much use counting on them as you would upon a man."

I turned away, discouraged. I must confess, for a moment at the out-look for improvement in woman's work and opportunities. Womanly nature, the desire for home, husband, and children of her own, cannot be altered, nor would we have it, if we could. The greatest hope lies in helping girls to realize that the changes and misfortunes of life throw self-support quite as often upon those who are, or have been, married as upon the single, and frequently involves the support of helpless dear ones; that no one, no matter how brilliant may seem her fortune, can be certain that she may not be placed in such a situation and that the possession of a good trade will never be an injury, while it will give her a a sense of security in the face of impending misfortune that is invaluable. As to the last part of the complaint, that in most cases as soon as a woman becomes really efficient, she marries, and her services are lost to her employer, nothing can be said. She simply seeks her own happiness, as she has a right to do, and if, by so doing, she hinders her sister's more rapid advancement in the working world, the latter must simply force her ambitious soul to rest content with what she can gain in spite of the drawbacks.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

Fancy Work and House Decoration.

Needle Book.—Cut out of pasteboard two pieces the shape of small Japanese fans. Cover the outside with some bright plush or velvet which may be embroidered or left plain, as the fancy dictates. Line this with silk or satin of contrasting color, overstitching the edges and putting a small fancy cord around them to cover the stitches. Cut fine flannel leaves of the same shape, pink the edges and fasten them to one fan, placing the other over it, then unite these with ribbon or a cord. Another pretty way is to cut two cover the shape of a harp, violin or guitar, represent the strings by gold or silver cord, on the outside, and make those up the same way as before.

Stand Cover.—Have in the center a square or circle of bright colored stuff. Then around this put crazy patch work until the square is just the size of the top of the stand. The brighter and more varied the colors the prettier it will be. Around this have a border of felt six or eight inches wide, with the lower edge pinked. Where the felt and crazy work come together sew two rows of small brass curtain rings. The effect is quite unique.

Silk Spool Receptacle.—Get one of the cheap round baskets, such as the florists fill with flowers, cut off the handle, if there be one, and gild the outside. Then have a long strip of silk, satin or cashmere, say one and a half times the circumference of the basket, and ten inches wide. Sew it together, gather it around the top of the basket, leaving a ruffle a half inch wide. Then put a skia, an inch and a half from the upper edge, which is to be finished with a narrow lace, and run in a wire—a piece of a hoop-skirt is good for this—having it just large enough to put the hand in easily; fasten ribbon or cord on the two sides for strings to hang it by, and a pretty and useful article is finished.

A Pretty Picture for the Wall.—That is, for those who take fashion magazines that have the colored plates. Take a frame and glass, say 16x20, that has a thin board back, remove the back and take laths, turn them on the side, saw them off so they will just fit the back, tack the back on to edge of the lath. Then you have a box an inch and a half deep. Paper the back with any kind of paper, but around the sides it should be papered with gilt paper. Then take your figures of men and women and children after they are nicely cut out, and put paste or glue across the wrong side of the figure at the bottom of the dress only, and stick it on the back of the box where you want it to go. Then take a thick the bone of a pen handle, wet with your paste, lay it across the back of your figure, about two-thirds down, and take another long, slim flat stick wet it with paste, on one side that goes next to the figure, then run it down behind your figure, between the stick across the bottom and the figure. Let it run from there up back of the head and stick other figures upon it. This gives it sets it out from the back, and it don't look so set. Serve all figures you put to your back in the same way.

You can commence in the center, and if you wish you can have a bridal scene and so on. You can form scenes according to your taste. If you are ingenious you can get up something really pretty. Don't be afraid of using scenery. You could form a picnic in the shade, a parlor scene, with someone playing on a piano, and gentlemen and ladies standing around; a sea side set; but avoid having anything look set. Then put the glass and frame on; this you can do with tacks. This makes one of the most beautiful medleys I have ever seen. I have seen every one admire it. I try it and report success in the HOUSEHOLD. There is one other thing that I think is lovely, that is our beautiful western Autumn leaves after they are prepared. Put grasses into your vase, then stick the leaves into it in every direction. You would say, "How lovely; so much prettier then dried flowers" to drape curtains and pictures.—MRS. D. P. SMITH, Retreat, Vernon Co., Wis.

Knitting and Crocheting.

Knitting Abbreviations—k, knit; p, purl or seam; p 2 tog, purl two together; n, narrow; s slip; s and bind; bind; t t o, throw thread over; b, bind; o, over; sl, slip.

Crocheting Abbreviations—l, loop; s c, single crochet; d c, double crochet; ch st, chain stitch; ch sl st, slip chain stitch; c e st, double chain stitch; p, picot; r c, ribbed crochet; c t st, crossed treble stitch; sh st, shell stitch; o s st, open shell stitch; t, treble; sh c, short crochet.

Baby Boots.—Cast on 26 stitches with any colored zephyr. Knit 1 row plain; make 1 stitch at each end until you have 30; knit 6 plain rows, decrease 1 stitch each until you have 26. This forms the sole. Cast on 10 stitches for the heel; knit back to the toe, and increase at this end only until you have 44 stitches; cast off 19 from the heel. This leaves 25 below the instep; knit 16 plain rows, cast on 19 and knit back; decrease at the heel until you have 26; cast off.

For the leg: Take up 46, 19 on each side, and 8 across instep. Take a larger needle, bring the wool twice around it; knit 2 together. Repeat this to the end of the row. This makes holes for a narrow ribbon to tie. Knit 25 plain; knit 10 rows of holes, like the one above for the ribbon, and cast off rather tightly.

I have another pattern of babies' socks with imitation slipper. I will send it if the editor does not think it will be too long, for it is a long pattern. If "Jennie" will send the initials E. B. W. to the address below, I would be greatly obliged.—MRS. GEO. DAVIES, Hinesburgh, Vt.

The editor can hardly tell, without seeing it, about the length, but if not more than twice the above we shall be glad to have the pattern mentioned.—ED.

Ladys' shoulder Cape.—For a cape of 11 points c h 54 st—make 1 extra to turn and d c 2 stitches on chain; 3 d c in next loop; 4 d c on chain, 3 d c in one loop, so on to end. If done correctly it will bring you out with 2 d c on the other end. 2nd row—2 d c and into middle one of the 3 d c of preceding row work 5 d c, 2 d c, then skip 2, draw thread tight) 2 d c, 5 a c and so on to end. 3rd row—3 d c with 3 d c in center of the 3 d c of preceding row. The rows alternate with 5 d c and 3 d c till you have 9 single stitches on each side, then work six rows with 5 d c, then work deep borders of shells and single stitches, having 3 shells of 6 stitches in a shell, and 3 single stitches to each point. Make collar of shells for the neck deep enough to roll over. Put ribbon in spaces between the points and around neck to tie. You will need three skeins Germantown or two of Saxony. About 3½ yards of narrow ribbon and 1½ wider to tie. For 10 points, which makes a medium sized cape, c h 49 stitches. Eleven points makes a large cape.—MRS W.

Correspondence.

DRESS REFORM(?).—Readers of the HOUSEHOLD, stop and think. This world is full enough of pain at the best and do not let us add to it by our thoughtless indifference to the bodies given us for our work in this world. What a different world would this be did we give the delicate machinery of our bodies thought enough to keep it in nice order. Language fails to express the wonderfully changed and glorified outlook we should gain.

But I must hasten. A lady of my acquaintance, who is far from being strong but rides a good deal and accomplishes an immense amount of business, has her clothing cut after the "Parisian Dress Reform" pattern and arranges the under gear as follows: First, a pair of cotton drawers, attached to chemisette waist and over these a pair of heavy woolen pantaloon cloth drawers, attached to the same waist. The under cotton drawers are to save washing the outer woolens as often as would otherwise be necessary. And here let me notice a point in regard to the cleansing of garments worn next to the skin. I find many people wear wrappers two weeks, while the outer garment is changed frequently, not seeming to compreend that the skin is constantly throwing off effete animal matter and unless frequent baths and changes of clothing take this matter away it clogs the pores and is retained in the system till the system becomes so poisoned that we have fevers, rheumatism and various other diseases.

At the knee the woolen drawers are gathered into a knitted woolen legging that extends over the stocking and top of the shoe, the same as the common legging. These are worn constantly, from the fact that the fire which warms the extremeties is in the body, and therefore the extremities, being farthest from the heat, need to be clothed the warmest. Then one thin skirt besides the dress skirt is sufficient. In this dress she looks and is called one of our most stylishly dressed ladies, and her dress is so loose that when she rises her shoulders the weight of clothing is also raised. This Parisian reform is particularly adapted to woolen underwear on account of there being no bands or gathers around the top of drawers or bottom of waist, but where these cannot be easily obtained other arrangements can be made that will relieve the body of the weight, if not quite as comfortable, it will be more comfortable than the present style.

The change from high to low-heeled shoes, that I spoke of and explained somewhat in my last letter, can easily be accomplished, from the fact that the tide has been sitting in that direction for some time, and we can find the low-heeled shoe at the shoe store now as plentifully as the high heels.

In conclusion, allow me to add that, in addition to their healthful dress, have fresh air coming into the sleeping room constantly by having a window open in an adjoining room in cold weather, with the door open between the rooms, and take a salt water bath at least three times a week, daily, would be better, and chew all food, eaten very fine. One of our most noted M. D.'s says: "Dyspepsia would be unknown would all chew everything they swallowed till it is like milk, spitting out all that could not be masticated in this way." The philosophy of this is that all food should be thoroughly mixed with saliva before entering the stomach. More anon.—MRS. E. H. NEARING, Franklin, N. Y.

ABOUT WASHING.—"Always busy"—yes the preparation of sal soda and lime I use for washing, does extract all stains from my clothes, and it is entirely harmless. I have used it fifteen years, I know and mamma is excellent, but with us it would be more than twice as expensive as with you. Doubtless there are many things as good, or better, than this I use. My daughter uses kerosene, and no clothes or table linen look better than hers, or more free from stains, I would like some of the skeptics to see four nice quilts of patch-work, she boiled the other week. They looked really splendid, she did not rub one bit, only washed them well in the three waters. They took half an hour each from the time they were put into the boiler to get them on the line.—F. H. P., Eskridge, Wabaunsee county, Kas.

MY POLITICS.—Will you let a 17-year-old girl speak? I have been a Republican most of my life, but I am becoming disgusted with the party now. I was for Blaine during the campaign, but since his defeat the Republicans have "blown off" so about St. John, charging him with almost all manners of evil, that I have begun to believe the Republicans are not what they used to be. I believe there is need of a third party. I want to vote. The Republicans are about 20 years behind hand, and the Democrats about 40. The Prohibition party is in favor of woman's rights, and the old parties are not. This is no day for dodging. Come out on the side of right. SENORA B. BRAUN, Stelridge, O.

CARE OF CANARIES.—In regard to canaries, I should like to state that I always take the cage down every morning and clean it, and give the birds water to bathe, just the same when they are raising birds, as at other times. I do not think it best to change that part of the program. They should not hang in the window in a draft, nor very near the fire. I keep the sulphur in a small red flannel bag, and never let water stand in the bottom of the cage. It is also better to *rub* off the perches and not wash too much. Everything should be kept clean and there is not much danger of mites. Light-brown wrapping paper is better for the bottom of the cage than newspaper, and sand should be sprinkled over it.

I feel deeply grateful to ladies who have so kindly suggested remedies for a weak back.

I am discouraged when I think of the lady who has suffered 30 years. My back is much better when I do not walk too much or work too hard.

I have Miss Bouton's book of Fancy Work and am knitting the "antique lace." It is pretty and the book very useful. If the lady who wanted to knit Saxony mittens would send to the Nonotuck Silk Co., Florence, Mass., she would probably get a book No. 5 or 6 for 6c. that would be suitable. They give the books away sometimes when they sell silk.

One more question, how does Miss Bouton pronounce her surname?—ROSE GERANIUM.

As if it were spelled Bow-tun.—ED.

Inquiries.

Will some kind lady of the HOUSEHOLD please give a good recipe for preparing mince meat?—MRS. C. T.

Will some one please tell me where I can obtain a recipe book for making cake without eggs?—HANNA H.

Have any of the readers of the HOUSEHOLD been troubled with a buzzing in the head and more when lying down on the bed at night. It troubles me sometimes so I can't get to sleep. Please send relief to one that is suffering.—D. H.

Will "F. B. C." please explain through the HOUSEHOLD what she means in her directions for knitting a mat by saying commence by five stitches then return, then knit ten and return and keep on increasing five and return each time until all are off?—ARMENA.

Will someone please send me a recipe for canning beef so it could be kept for use in summer? Also, what use is made of clover seed.—S. H. EGOLPH.

I want to ask some one through your paper what is meant by the "Shut-in Society?" And also to thank Mrs. "Ida Smith" for her letter on Home and Charity. I hope we may see many more of the same kind in the dear old BLADE. I differ with the editor when she says the charities of to-day are used to the bett advantage, for we all know if they were there would be fewer paupers in the world than there are.—LEW.

The "Shut-In-Society" is made up of invalids who are kept by their bodily ailments in doors, many of them having been confined to their beds many years. The members write friendly letters to each other for mutual encouragement and consolation. A paper is also published monthly for pleasure and benefit, called the *Shut-in-Visitor*, and edited by Kate Sumner Burr, Walworth, N. Y.

We think our friend is mistaken in attributing the growth of pauperism to the lack of a proper use of the charities of the day. It is due to other causes entirely, causes which have become social problems that are subjects of careful consideration by the wisest intellects in the civilized world. We do not now recall our exact words, nor have we time to look them up, but we repeat the substance, that never was charity so wisely dispensed as now, and never was *real* charity so well understood. We well know that there are misery and selfishness enough in the world at all times, and will be so long as human nature is so imperfect, and yet, thank God, there is much of good in almost everybody, if we will only strive to find it out, and that is constantly striving to find expression in the way of helping others. —ED.

I have a full, strong, good voice for singing and I sing a great deal, accompanying myself on the organ.

I have no one to go to sing with me. There are no singing schools near, and I want to receive voice training. Patti, Nevada and Nilsson are the stars that I worship from afar, though I would rather sing in church than in opera. I am seventeen. Is that too old to begin? I tried to trill one day, like a lady I heard in a city church, and I felt like a saw mill. Do you think I could ever learn to do it by practicing? I have no book for vocal instructions. What kind must I get? It is the same old story; an ambitious, striving, country girl, poor and without advantages.

I come to you because so many others have been helped by your advice.

FANNIE.

You certainly are not too old to begin voice culture, and it is possible that you may have vocal powers sufficient to be worth careful training. You must remember that skillful trilling is the result of long practice. What you need is a good teacher, and we cannot encourage you to believe that you can accomplish a great deal without. Is it not in your power to go to some city and get the opinion of some fine teacher as to your voice and its possibilities? If it is pronounced good, then make the effort to go where the right training can be had. It is very hard giving advice when nothing is known of your circumstances and surroundings, but remember this is emphatically true in such cases: Where there is a will there is always a way, sooner or later. —ED.

When a gentleman takes two ladies to church, is it etiquet for him to wait and let the first lady take a seat and follow, or, should he wait till both are seated and go into the pew?—A SUBSCRIBER.

Most of the questions upon points of etiquette have been answered in "Social Etiquet," which can now be had in book form by sending $1 to Locke Publishing Co., Toledo, O. The book, it is true, contains several chapters that did not appear in the BLADE, but we shall have to refer our readers to that in most instances in order to avoid repetition. In the case above the gentleman should allow both ladies to pass into the pew before he enters.—ED.

Will the lady, "Mrs. H. L. B.," who gave rule for making Torchon Lace, explain a little plainer than now? In No. 2, she says it means the first loop of t o 2 must be knit and the second dropped. In making the lace I find no loops to drop. I wish to understand it. Will she please explain?—B. M. G.

Answers to Inquiries.

FOR LOU.—Make your spread the size you want it as you would a sheet, then pin it out straight and tight, on the carpet, and trace with a good pencil the pattern you want on it. Put in your quilting frame, and proceed to work, by threading a large-eyed darning needle with your working, and work over the pattern, by taking up a few threads on your needle, and leave a small space, and take another stitch, and so on over the patterns. Then cut the parts of the wicking you have left between the stitches, and it is done. Put in the cold water for a night. These spreads can be made very pretty, and are strong.

FOR MRS. F. H. C.—I think our grandmother's way of using double yarn for a double heel is the best, it makes a smooth, firm heel, and I find a good way is to knit double a few rounds above the heel, not all around, but just the stitches you are going to take for the heel. I do not tie on the yarn, but just take it on the needle when I come to the place to begin, and cut it off when I have knitted the number of stitches I want; I do the same after the heel, for an inch or two. It is a little trouble, but it pays.—F. H. P., Eskridge, Wabaunsee, Kan.

Tell "M. A," if she will take pine tar and put a plaster of it on her feet and wear it for several days, I think it will make a cure. It is also good for a lame back.—A. W.

I would say to those wishing a cure for chilblains: Take a piece of unslacked lime about as large as a coffee cup; slack it in water (about 3 qts.) When it is cooled so as to bear the feet in it, soak them about ten minutes and wipe dry without rinsing. Two or three soakings will be likely to cure.—A. H. B.

"Aunt Ruth" wanted to know how to can or dry pumpkins to keep. To dry, cut the pumpkin in small pieces and boil until done. Drain all the water off then jam them, leaving them on the stove, and stirring, and jamming them occasionally until they are as dry as possible, then spread them on plates and set in the oven until dry. To can, treat the same way, except to dry it, and seal as other fruit.

For several who have inquired about salt rising bread I give the following: 1 teaspoonful of salt, 1 teaspoonful granulated sugar; scald in a vessel holding a pint or more and stir; fill vessel over half full with tepid water—have warm enough to hold your finger in comfortably; then stir in sifted flour until you have a batter a little thicker than for pan-cakes; beat thoroughly; now put in a little more flour, and stir partially under. This is to absorb water that may rise. Set in a kettle or tin vessel of warm water; keep in warm place, covered. The sun is the best to raise it; when light mix in sifted flour with one pint of water. Knead thoroughly and hard, but quick, before it gets old. Shape in loaves at once; grease bread and pans with butter; set in sun or warm oven to rise; bake in slow oven one hour. This makes three large loaves. Make dough quite stiff. Use deeper pans than the common. I forgot to say, salt the dough, putting in teaspoonful, and to set early in the morning or at night, and wrap the kettle up to keep it warm.—YELLOW PANSY.

Some time ago I saw that some one wanted to know what would kill sheep lice. I will tell them. Take wild elder and steep the roots and wash the sheep thoroughly when pretty warm. You will see I am quite a hand for pets. I have nine canary birds, one Boston oriole, a singer; and two blue jays, that go in and out of their cage at their own pleasure.—ORIOLE.

If "Jennie Lind" will send me her address I will send directions for making a very pretty knitted hood.—BELLA, Box 91, Smithfield, Pa.

Can you not send it to the HOUSEHOLD? We should be glad to have it unless it is too long.—ED.

Recipes.

CIDER JELLY.—Soak a box of gelatine—about a cup full—in a half pint of cold water for two hours. Heat 2½ pts. of cider to the boiling point, and pour over the soaked gelatine. Add a pint of sugar, and stir until both it and the gelatine are dissolved. After straining through a napkin, pour into molds and set away to cool. When cold, place in the ice-chest for six hours.—E. H.

CITRON PRESERVES.—Pare the citron and cut in small pieces, not exceeding a quarter of an inch in thickness. Remove all the seeds, weigh and put them in alum water for two or three hours. Then turn the alum off and boil in clear water until you can pierce them with a straw. Make syrup, allowing ½ lb of sugar to 1 lb of fruit, adding ½ pt of water to 1 lb of sugar. Place your citron in the syrup and cook same as other preserves. Just before taking from the stove, slice in two or three lemons, according to quantity of preserves.—BRIDGET.

Tropical Orange Snow.—Peel four oranges, divide into sections and remove the seeds and tough membrane. Put a layer of oranges in the bottom of a glass dish, then a few drops of lemon juice, sprinkle with powdered sugar, then add a layer of grated cocoanut and a banana cut in very thin slices. Repeat this process until you have used the four oranges and three bananas. Put the top should be of oranges covered with the sugar and cocoanut and heaped higher in the center. A meringue may be used instead of the cocoanut. Serve ice cold.—M. B.

Brown Bread.—To ½ teacupful of molasses put ½ teaspoonful safaratus, warming and stirring together until they foam, then add 1 pt. sweet milk, a little salt and Graham flour, reserving ½ of the flour, through which mix thoroughly 2 teaspoonfuls of baking powder; mix about as stiff as Graham gems. Bake one hour and a half in a slow oven. Much depends on the baking—to be taked as soon as mixed.—LAURA.

Quick Swedish Bread.—The best Swedish bread is made with raised dough, but this quick bread is nice for luncheon. Mix in and rub through a sieve a quart of unsifted flour, heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder, 3 teaspoonfuls of sugar, and ½ teaspoonful of salt; then rub 2 tablespoonfuls of butter into the mixture, doing it thoroughly, and wet with a scant pint of cold milk. Stir quickly into the shape of a ball Sprinkle the bread-board with flour and roll this ball upon it down to the thickness of one third of an inch. Sprinkle upon the dough three tablespoonfuls of sugar and a light grating of nutmeg, and finally spread a cupful of dried currants over all. Roll up the dough, and cut into slices about an inch thick. Place in a baking-pan that has been well buttered, and bake for twenty minutes in a very hot oven. The currants may be omitted, if you prefer.—L. W.

Spiced Beef.—Take about 20 lbs. of round of beef, which rub well with about 3 ozs. of coarse brown sugar, and put into a pan for 24 hours. Pound up to a powder 2 ozs. of saltpetre, 2 ozs. of black pepper, 2 ozs. of allspice, a little nutmeg, 1 blade of mace and 6 cloves. Mix this with 12 ozs of common salt and the juice of 4 ozs. of pounded juniper berries, and rub well into the beef, repeating this daily for three weeks. When ready to be cooked, wash in cold water and place in a deep-covered pan the size of the meat, to which add a quarter pint of water. Cover it with beef suet chopped very fine, over which put a common paste crust. Place on the cover and put into the oven; when done let it get cool before taking off the crust and suet.—E. E.

A Penny Saved is Twopence Earned.

A little SOZODONT, used every day, costs but little trouble and is pleasant always. It saves years of suffering from diseased gums and teeth in later days. Its use is economical of time and comfort. Use SOZODONT.

Our Young Folks.

MAISY'S CHRISTMAS.

BY C. T.

"I wonder," cried Maisy, small and fair,
On Christmas eve, as the night shut down,
"How Santa Claus can go everywhere
And find all the stockings in every town!"

She skipped from the window lofty and wide,
And questioning stood at her mother's knee
In the beautiful light of the fireside,—
"Mamma, does he ever forget?" asked she.

"A poor child is begging out there in the storm,
So cold, mamma, and so pale and thin!
Can't we have her here to get dry and warm?
And may I tell Bessie to bring her in?"

Astonished, the shivering beggar was brought,
And thankfully stood in the fire-light's glow
While Maisy gazed at her, deep in thought,—
"Do you hang up your stocking? I'm like to know!"

"My stocking? I have n't a stocking," she said.
"Oh, dear, kind people, please give to me
For starving Mother a piece of bread:
Too weak to rise from her bed is she."

They gave her stockings, clothes, food and wine,
With fuel to burn and candles to cheer,
And sent her home in a carriage fine,
Quite dumb and breathless with joy and fear.

"Mamma, Mamma," cried Maisy, small,
When the child had gone in her dream of bliss,
"She never has hung up a stocking at all!
She doesn't know, even, who Santa Claus is!"

Then she kneeled on the hearth-stone, "O Santa Claus dear,"
She cried, with her pretty head all in a whirl,
"You need n't bring anything beautiful here:
Please take all my things to that poor little girl!"

And Santa Claus heard what she said, and she hung
No stocking at all by the fire that night,
But up in the morning rejoicing she sprung,
Herself like the sunshine, so cheerful and bright.

Not a trace of a present by bed or by fire!
The good saint had taken her quite at her word;
And Maisy sweet, having had her desire,
Set up her old playthings, as blithe as a bird.

She played till 't was time to the church to go;
Then in satin and velvet and fur and plume,
The mother and daughter tripped over the snow,
With red lips smiling and cheeks ablOom.

And after the service was over, and out
The people poured from the portal wide;
Her playmates round Maisy pressed about,—
And "What did you get in your stocking" they cried.

Then answered our Maisy sweet and small,
While her color grew to a deeper red,
"What did *you* get? I got nothing at all!"
"Nothing! they must have been naughty!" they said.

That moment, a beautiful sound in the air!
The blast of a horn, so clear and loud
That it caused all the people to start and stare!—
And a horseman dashed swift past the waiting crowd.

And up to Maisy where she stood,
A little apart from the rest he spurred;
Dismounted as quickly as ever he could,
And bowed to the ground ere he uttered a word.

Such a splendid messenger, plumed and curled,
Booted and spurred, with a sword so grand!
There never was such a surprise in the world;
And what do you think he held in his hand

Tied up with ribbons?—Such trinkets and toys,
(Oh, the snow-birds fluttered to hear the news!)
A music-box, and no end of joys,
And the dearest dolly, with pointed shoes!

"Good Santa Claus sent me," he said, and he smiled,
"To bring you some presents and wish you delight;
He did what you asked for the poor little child,
But it made him too late for your stocking last night!"

—*St. Nicholas for January.*

ANNA.

A Christmas Story for Girls.

BY ELEANOR KIRKE.

It would not have been a hard position for most girls, but for Anna Campbell it was indescribably painful. After reading the story, many readers will no doubt say that Anna Campbell was a very foolish girl. Others will feel that her position was a trying one, and that she behaved as well as most girls would have behaved under the circumstances. Here is the story:

The dining-room in which Anna sat, was a bright, sunny apartment, with pots in the windows and a Maltese cat slumbering before the open fire. The breakfast service was very tasteful and pretty, and every appointment of the room betokened comfort and good-cheer. Indeed, there seemed but one draw-back to perfect domestic harmony. This was Anna.

A fine-looking gentlemen, of forty-five or the neighborhood, sat at the head of the table and dispensed beef-steak, fried potatoes and *bon mots* in a manner which most persons would have considered extremely agreeable.

Not so to Anna. To her Col. Demer was an ogre,—a handsome, polished Blue Beard,—who smiled because his teeth were fine, and was kind to everybody because of his overweening vanity and desire to be popular. In this respect, as in many others, Anna was very much mistaken.

A beautiful woman presided at the coffee-urn. There seemed the best possible understanding between this lady and the gentleman. There certainly should have been, for they were husband and wife. What is more, the lady was Anna's mother, who had been married to Col. Demer three or four months. All this is all there is to offer in extenuation of Anna's unhappy conduct.

For some reason—inexplicable at least to Anna—she had been placed, on the day of their arrival, on the colonel's left hand; and because she was too proud to have it seen she did not like her seat, not because she would have cared in the least about hurting the colonel's feeling, she had taken it regularly three times a day and made herself as disagreeable as possible. How? By an unsmiling face, and an exaggeration of manner that made her appear like a haughty guest, instead of a member of the family.

Between Col. Demar and his wife sat Paul Demer, a young man of eighteen, an invalid and a cripple. He was seldom able to come to the table. This was one of the exceptional days. Some years previous a fall on the ice had caused a spinal trouble, for which there seemed to be no cure, and very slight alleviation.

At his right sat Lulu Demer, a girl of eight, and on the other side of the table Frank Demer, a lad of fifteen. This constituted the whole family.

"And are you going to gather holly this morning, Anna," said Col. Demer, after he had waited upon them all, "and I hope you will make one of the party."

"Thank you!" replied Anna, stiffly.

"Does that mean yes or no?" inquired the gentleman, with a smile, determined to vary the programme a little by teasing. The girl's face flushed as she answered,—

"It means no, Col. Demer, if you will have me to so impolite."

"Excuse me if I am not able to see where the impoliteness comes in, in *politely* declining an invitation," said the colonel in his usual quiet manner. He then turned and said, "I hope you feel able to ride as far as the woods with us, Paul?"

There was an indescribable tenderness in the man's voice as he addressed the invalid, which was by no means lost on Anna, though at that time she would not have admitted it, even to herself.

"Oh, if I only could!" said Paul, with a wistful look toward Mrs. Demer, of whom he was very fond, and in whose judgment he had learned to confide. "If mother thinks 'twill be all right," he continued.

"A ride this morning would be against the doctor's orders, Paul," said the lady. "But if you keep pretty well to-day, I think by to-morrow he will prescribe one himself. I am very sorry to disappoint you, dear."

"Oh, it's no matter," said Paul, bravely. "The fact is, I forgot all about it, mother."

Mrs. Demer rose from the table and was about to wheel the invalid away, but stopped, with her hands on the back of the chair, and said,—

"I am sorry to say that I have an unpleasant duty to perform this morning; one I should be very glad to disregard if that were possible. My daughter wishes it to be understood by the family that she not only does not want any Christmas presents given her, but that she will under no circumstances accept any."

"Oh, isn't that poky!" broke in the impulsive Frank. "If I were Anna, I'd take them, if I threw them into the fire afterward!" And unable longer to restrain his anger, he rose and left the room.

"I think you might at least have waited, mamma, until I was out of the room," said Anna, as she moved toward the door. "If there is one thing more disagreeable than another, it is a scene."

"I agree with you, Anna," said Mrs. Demer; "and especially a scene of this kind. I delivered your message while you were present so that you might have an opportunity of witnessing the effect of your resolve. Now"—as Anna hesitated on the threshold—"you may be excused."

This little episode had taxed Mrs. Demer's patience and nerve to the utmost. Paul reached up and took the hand that rested on the back of his chair, and Mr. Demer kissed his wife and entreated her to think no more about it. Frank returned to ask his mother's pardon for being so hasty, and Lulu declared she'd never love Anna any more as long as she lived.

Two hours after, Anna was sitting in her own room reading. Her door was locked and bolted. A quick, imperative knock caused her to rise and open it. Why she so carefully secured herself against intrusion, is hard to tell; but she certainly seemed very much in earnest as she attended to this process of locking and barring; and yet no one ever invaded her privacy, not even her mother.

"Please come to Mr. Paul!" said a frightened chambermaid, who stood at the door. "He's in one of his spasms, and I don't know what to do."

"Well, if you don't know, how should I?" replied Anna, tartly, as she followed the girl: for no other reason, so far as I can see, than that the girl's will was stronger than hers.

Poor Paul! There he lay, pale and rigid, looking as if the death-angel had already claimed him. Then the muscles relaxed, and he moaned piteously.—

"O mother! mother! Why did you go away? What shall I do?"

This was the first time that Anna had heard the word mother pronounced by any of the members of this family when it had not filled her heart with agony.

"Paul, what does mamma do for you?" she inquired, bending over the sufferer.

"You here!" whispered Paul, so surprised that even in the midst of his pain, he could not help expressing it, and then, trying to smile,—

"Don't be frightened, Anna; it will be over presently."

"Yes, Paul," said Anna, with an earnestness which surprised even herself; "but what does mamma do?"

"Everything, everything," replied Paul, struggling manfully with another spasm; but it was too much for him; and then Anna, with her heart full of pity and sympathy for the poor sufferer, set to work. Her efforts were so successful that after a few moments, Paul was able to speak again.

"Why, you're quite so much for me when you don't like me?" was his first question.

"Why, Paul, I would have done as much for a sick dog!" replied Anna, with rising color.

"Thank you," said Paul, whimsically.

"Oh, I didn't mean it quite that way!" still more confused; "but do you often suffer like this?"

"Very—very often," was the shuddering reply. "And you relieved me almost as quickly as—as your mother."

"Why didn't you say mother, as you started to?" inquired Anna.

"I try not to say it, because I think it hurts you," Paul answered, kindly; "but she is so good to me, that sometimes I really can't help it."

"Perhaps you'd better not talk any more," suggested Anna, still patting his head.

"Just this, please," replied Paul. "I am so weak and ill that it is not unlikely I shall"——

"Yes, yes, Paul; I know," interrupted Anna, with a shiver.

"And if I knew when 'twould be," continued Paul, "there is one thing that would trouble me very, very much."

"I know what that is, Paul," said Anna. "I know very well."

"And, Anna," Paul went on, "sometimes I think I may get over these awful spasms. They are not half so bad as they were before your mother came."

"Drop the *your*, please. Say mother."

"Thank you, Anna. Mother. And if I do, it will be because of the care I have had; and if I don't—O Anna, I shall go so much easier for having had her!"

Anna drew the heavy dark hair away from the invalid's temples, but spoke no word.

"There was Frank," continued Paul, "getting so wild and careless, bound for the bad, I am afraid, as fast as a boy could go, and now look at him. And then poor Lulu, with nobody to teach her and keep her straight; and then think of father. I never saw such a happy man as father is now! And all this change has been brought about by one mother."

"Yes, and I haven't helped her one bit," said Anna, apparently more to herself than her companion. Paul took no notice.

"And yet"—Paul was determined to say it all now—"I wish from the bottom of my heart she had never come. She can never be happy, with her own child—whom of course she loves better than all the rest of us put

"I Have Suffered I"

With every disease imaginable for the last three years. Our Druggist, T. J. Anderson, recommending "Hop Bitters" to me,
I used two bottles!
Am entirely cured, and heartily recommend Hop Bitters to every one. J. D Walker, Buckner, Mo.

I write this as a
Token of the great appreciation I have of your Hop
* * * Bitters. I was afflicted
With inflammatory rheumatism I
For nearly
Seven years, and no medicine seemed to do me any
Good!!!
Until I tried two bottles of your Hop Bitters, and to my surprise I am as well today as ever I was. I hope
"You may have abundant success"
In this great and
Valuable medicine:
Anyone * * wishing to know more about my cure!
Can learn by addressing me, E. M. Williams, 1103 16th street, Washington, D. C.

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Remedy the best remedy in existence
For indigestion, kidney —*Complaint*

"An I nervous debility. I have just"
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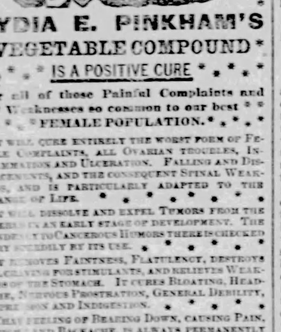
"From the south in a fruitless search for health, and find that your bitters are doing me more
Good
Than anything else:
A month ago I was extremely
"Emaciated!!!"
And scarcely able to walk. Now I am gaining strength and
"Flesh"
And hardly a day passes but what I am complimented on my improved appearance, and it is all due to Hop
Bitters! J. Wickliffe Jackson,
—*Wilmington, Del.*

Be none genuine without a bunch of green hops on the white label. Shun all the vile, poisonous stuff with "Hop" or "Hops" in their name.



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For all of those Painful Complaints and Weaknesses so common to our best FEMALE POPULATION.

IT WILL CURE ENTIRELY THE WORST FORM OF FEMALE COMPLAINTS, ALL OVARIAN TROUBLES, INFLAMMATION AND ULCERATION, FALLING AND DISPLACEMENTS, AND THE CONSEQUENT SPINAL WEAKNESS, AND IS PARTICULARLY ADAPTED TO THE CHANGE OF LIFE.

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THAT FEELING OF BEARING DOWN, CAUSING PAIN, WEIGHT AND BACKACHE, IS ALWAYS PERMANENTLY CURED BY ITS USE.

IT WILL AT ALL TIMES AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES ACT IN HARMONY WITH THE LAWS THAT GOVERN THE FEMALE SYSTEM.

FOR THE PURPOSE IS SOLELY FOR THE LEGITIMATE RELIEF OF DISEASE AND THE RELIEF OF PAIN, AND THAT IT DOES ALL IT CLAIMS TO DO, THOUSANDS OF LADIES CAN GLADLY TESTIFY.

FOR THE CURE OF KIDNEY COMPLAINTS IN EITHER SEX THIS REMEDY IS UNSURPASSED.

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Nothing should be without LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S LIVER PILLS. They cure Constipation, Biliousness and Torpidity of the Liver. 25 cents per box.

The Farm.

Both departments we cordially invite questions, answers and short communications on agricultural topics, brief crop reports, etc., etc. Communications should be written on one side of the paper only, and never on the same sheet with business matters. The full name and address must in all cases accompany the communication.

Seasonable Suggestions.

To the Editor of the Blade Farm:

The past year's business should now be summed up in order that we may profit in 1885 by the experience gained in 1884.

Examine the young orchard trees and when tramp down the snow immediately about the stems of each, so that the mice will not injure them.

Many little jobs could now be done indoors as well as not, if one had a small work-shop. Painting and re-gaining hotbed sashes that will be needed February and March, is a job that should be attended to now.

To secure a supply of eggs at this season, give the hens a warm breakfast consisting of potatoes, turnips, with cracklings or other butchers' offal. Stir in wheat bran and season lightly with red peppers. See that the roosting place is free from drafts of cold winds. For the evening meal, feed corn, oats and wheat.

Give the asparagus bed a good coating of manure.

Do not apply tar or grease to the stems of the young trees to protect them from rabbits. Tarred paper tied around the body of the tree is better. A few corn stalks two feet in length, set about the trees and tied with a string answers the same purpose.

If the strawberry bed has not been covered it should now be done. Clean straw, cornstalks, refuse from sugar-cane mill, or evergreen boughs will answer an excellent purpose. At all events see that there are no grass or weed seeds. Do not cover so deeply that some leaves of each plant can not be seen.

Sheep do better on a mixture of corn, oats and wheat bran, than upon either alone. The grains mixed with the bran constitutes as strong food as should be given to ewes in lamb. Regularity in feeding is essential to the production of the best grades of wool.

No barn yard is complete without an abundant supply of pure water is at hand. Stock fed upon dry fodder, require more water than when fresh grass is abundant. What is needed on most farms is an arrangement of for water that will obviate the necessity of exposure to cold storms, or of trampling through the mud and mire to obtain it.

Lucas Co., O. S. W. JR.

The Best Hog for Market.

The question is what hog will sell for the most money when fully fatted. I think, without doubt, the white hogs. In a business of dealing the past year 9,000,- 000 hundred weight of fish were caught in the Caspian sea. In the sea of Azof and the rivers Don and Kuban, more than 4,000,000 hundred weight were caught. In the Black sea, about 8,000,000 hundred weight; in the White sea and the Frozen ocean, 560,000 hundred weight; in the Baltic, not less than 2,000,000 hundred weight, the total of these numbers being 800,000 tons of fish.

Guernsey Cattle.

Guernsey cattle are advancing in popular interest in the United Kingdom, as well as in the United States, and it appears likely that these cattle will soon outnumber the Jerseys in England. The idea is seemingly gaining ground that the Guernseys are the more useful breed of the two.—*Mark Lane Express.*

Beet Sugar.

There are only two beet-sugar factories in operation in North America—one in West Farnham, Quebec, Cap., the other at Alvarado, Col.

The Sugar Crop.

A Franklin, La., dispatch says: "The sugar crop generally will fall largely short of last year. The prospect for the coming year, in view of the proposed ratification of the Mexican and Spanish treaties and the difficulty of procuring advances for cultivating the cane crop, is very gloomy. The planters are in great doubt as to the proper course to pursue. No contracts with laborers for the new year are being made, and much apprehension is felt as to their future, as they are without means of support and wholly dependent upon their daily labor."

Arable Land.

Arable land is originally formed by the crumbling of rocks, and its properties depend on the nature of their principal component parts. Sand, clay and lime are the names given to the principal constituents of the different kinds of soil. Pure sand and pure limestone, in which there are no other inorganic substances (except silicious earth, carbonate or silicate of lime) form absolutely barren soils. Now, from whence comes the argillaceous earths in arable land? What are their constituents, and what part do they play in favoring vegetation? They are produced by the disintegration of aluminous minerals by the action of the weather, the common potash and soda felspars and the mountain limestone. It is remarkable the quantity of argillaceous earth which they contain.

The aluminous minerals are the most widely diffused on the surface of the earth. All fertile soils contain alumina, an invariable constituent. The property on which this depends is that it always contains potash and soda.

Alumina is an absorbent, by retaining water and hartshorn of the rain; it is rarely found in plants.

System in the Apiary.

As one of the strongest principles of the apiary, every apiarian should have a system of management so that by simple and thorough, but well governed work through the season. It should be simple so as to work all parts of the hives with ease; thorough, so as to make the most of every moment of the busy, busy bee, for the harvest of sweet from the flowers is short at most. With this system of management, apiarians need not be afraid to make calculations and lay plans for the future. As a rule those who wait until they know how many swarms there will be for the season's work before ordering their supplies and having everything in readiness, are the ones to lose many a pound of honey by having their work to do when it should have been done earlier. Don't be too prompt, and well to be sure they do not know that every swarm is in good condition for winter. This calls for thoroughness and ordering supplies early.—Willis A. Hinds, in *Farm and Home.*

Feeding Mares in Foal.

The food and feeding of mares in foal are of great and important interest, the science and practice whereof must be carefully studied by breeders who would be successful in maintaining their mares healthy throughout the period of gestation and over the act of foaling, and reap the reward of stout and vigorous foals. The quantity and nutritive quality of provender supplied to a pregnant mare should be in strict accordance with her individual requirements. Establishment of a just balance between the quantity and the demand for it can be determined by a accurate perception of condition, as exemplified by the possession of vigor and evidences of efficient nutrition. The two opposite extremes of obesity or plethora and excessive leanness or debility are to be avoided.—*Reynolds on Draft Horses.*

Handle it Carefully.

The importance of careful handling of a tobacco crop when stripping and assorting can not be too strongly urged. It is here that many growers fail to get a reputation for their goods. Many a crop of fine leaves does not command the price it should, because it has been carelessly stripped, slovenly handled or dishonestly assorted. After getting a crop through all the risks attendant at the time the seed is planted till the plants are stripped, it surely doesn't pay to sacrifice the profit by carelessness in preparing for market. The best growers fully appreciate this point, but there is a large class who fail in this respect. Let those who need to take the hint.

Benefits of Drouth.

Drouth is not an unmitigated evil; for while it parches the surface and thus lessens the present crop, the upward movement of water in the soil which is induced by excessive surface evaporation, causes the fertilizing salts which exist in the subsoil to be brought to the surface and there placed within reach of the next season's crops. Who has not noticed the white, saline incrustation to be seen on the surface of a much tried in the time of drouth? This is evidently due to the cause named; but the same cause operates in all soils.

Mutton Sheep.

Hon A. M. Garland, the great authority on sheep, has recently been to Australia in that interest, and he reports that the Merino sheep are so commingled as to produce and fix a breed good for both wool and mutton. Perhaps we may do well to seek the same thing. Meanwhile, since wool is very dear and meat is very high, it might be well for every farmer to get a few Southdown or Cotswald ewes and raise mutton for himself and his neighbors and eventually for the market.

Colts' Feet.

A colt's feet are sound and well formed before he is shod, and the ills of the horse's feet are occasioned by shoeing and cured by "running barefoot." Most ailments, such as spavin, ringbone, etc., can be traced to bad shoeing. A barefoot horse will travel freer, keep his footing freer, and show less fatigue from a journey or a hard day's work than if shod. The kick of an unshod horse is not as dangerous as when shod, and stumbling rarely occurs—cutting, interfering, overreaching and forging never.

Fish in Russian Waters.

The fish supply of Russia lakes and rivers are enormous. During the past year 9,000,- 000 hundred weight of fish were caught in the Caspian sea. In the sea of Azof and the rivers Don and Kuban, more than 4,000,000 hundred weight were caught. In the Black sea, about 8,000,000 hundred weight; in the White sea and the Frozen ocean, 560,000 hundred weight; in the Baltic, not less than 2,000,000 hundred weight, the total of these numbers being 800,000 tons of fish.

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Disadvantages of Special Farming.

An incident of the disadvantages of special farming is spoken of by an Eastern farmer in the Massachusetts *Ploughman.* One of his neighbors had a small farm. He was entirely dependent on his crops for a livelihood, and onions had been a paying crop. He put all his land into onions. He had nothing else. He got a good crop. But it was an onion season, and there were so plenty that they hardly paid for gathering. He did not get enough from them to pay his expenses, although he had a large crop. That was a specialty in farming. That year potatoes paid wonderfully well. If he had put one-half of his farm in potatoes he would have made money. He got thoroughly sick of his onions, and the next year he gave them up and went into potatoes. He made them a specialty, and they proved that year a total failure. But if he had planted these crops together each year, and practiced mixed husbandry, he would have been successful in both years. As it was, he was thoroughly cleaned out.

The Cost of Production.

Mr. McIver, of Detroit, has been ciphering out consolation for the farmers. He has been estimating the average cost of producing a bushel of wheat in the state of Michigan. His estimate covers everything, from the plowing of the field to the delivery of the wheat in Detroit, and he claims that each item is placed at its maximum. Implements, horses, etc., he averages at the cost of hiring them, which covers interest on the capital invested in them, and renewals. He allows the farmer compensation for his labor, calling it wages and board. He makes allowances also for repairs, manure and rental, this last on the assumed valuation of $60 per acre. He thinks he has covered fully every possible item of cost, and he makes it out to be 70 78 cents per bushel on the average for the state. If the farmer gets that for his wheat delivered in Detroit, he gets a fair compensation for his outlay, his labor, and his capital. He could sell at 70 cents to that market and still get compensation for his labor, etc., but his rent would be reduced from 15½ cents to the bushel of wheat to 5½ cents. At current prices, according to this estimate, the average Michigan farmer is getting enough to cover actual cost of production, including compensation for his own labor, but he is getting rental on a valuation of only about $40 per acre on the average.

It is not to be inferred that the lot of the western farmer is, on the whole, an enviable one with wheat at its present price, for, in the first place, Michigan is not the whole west, and is more favorably situated with respect to market than states further west; and, in the second place, estimates of this kind are extremely liable to have a screw loose somewhere about them. The probability is that farmers west of the Mississippi can not save themselves at the prices they are now able to get for their wheat.

News of the Week.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

What the President of the Civil Service Commission Thinks of Cleveland's Letter.

Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, president of the Civil Service commission, was asked by a representative of the Associated Press for his views in regard to Gov. Cleveland's letter.

Mr. Eaton said: "It would be an unpardonable presumption in me to assume to speak for Gov. Cleveland, but I may speak freely for myself. In regard to the letter, it is a significant and timely utterance of a man who comprehends the situation and has the courage of his convictions and his duties. It is a platform on the subject to which it relates. The views of the letter are those common to all true statesmen of both parties, and these views are those most rapidly growing in the hearts of the people. The policy disclosed in the letter is that by which alone his party can retain power or the country escape decay. It shows plainly we are to have no mixed cabinet and no timid or compromising policy; but a strong, positive, honest, courageous and absolutely Democratic administration. It will be one in broad contrast to the last Democratic administration, which was weak, evasive, and scornful of noble and growing sentiment.

"I may do injustice to my political opponents, but I must think many of them have been hoping Gov. Cleveland would be found ready to break his pledges and trifle with his convictions. This letter ought to dispel all such illusions, and is therefore timely. Place hunters of his party may yet give him much trouble, and perhaps may bring their party near to ruin by their greed for office.

"The Democratic party now stands where it did when Buchanan was elected, where two roads separate, one leading to honor and victory, and the other to shame and defeat. Its fate depends on its choice of the roads and leaders. If I cared more for my party than for my country, I should hope the greed and clamor for places and spoils would break through the civil service law and rules and engulf the new President with all the statesmen in his party. The declaration of the letter that lessons of the past should be unlearned, may well be pioneered by Republicans as well as Democrats. It is just ten years since President Grant, through a special message, was asking a Republican Congress to make a small appropriation for the enforcement of the civil service rule to which the Republican party was pledged. Unfortunately there was no statesmen in Congress that could see that the new cause with the elements of potency in the near future, was beginning to stir the hearts of the people. In the eyes of Republican leaders the early friends of the cause were 'enthusiastic' and 'doctrinaires,' at whom partisan journals especially delighted to sneer. No member in either house cared to even call for the ayes and noes on the appropriation. Amid jeers and laughter, civil service reform, in the opinion of the leaders of its enemies, was consigned to the tomb of the Capulets. At out that time the Republican party entered upon a slow decline, foolery and patronage followed. At that time, too, began a deliberate method, and soon afterward was carried forward through many affiliated organizations, that broad appeal to the virtue and wisdom of the country which two years ago convinced a reluctant Congress that the reform sentiment would be heeded. A civil service reform bill was prepared, in consequence, and both Senator Pendleton in the Senate and Willis in the House (to whom the country owes much) brought in that bill, which Republicans contributed by far the most in speech, earnestness and votes, to make a law; but their return to sound principles on this subject was rather late, and their support of them in the last canvass rather an indication that the people were never so ready as now to recognize fidelity in the public service, and the distinguished citizen of the county who would now address them, throughout his career had never broken one pledge to the people who entrusted him.

Mr. Randall then addressed the audience. His speech was an argument against internal revenue taxation as un-American, unnecessary and unconstitutional. He said it was only justified as a war measure. The bill which two years after the victory of Gen. Jackson at New Orleans, upon the recommendation of Mr. Monroe, this internal system was swept from our country, and now we find ourselves, with no necessity for the money derived from this source, twenty years after the war is over which prompted the levying of it, we find the Republican party, as one of our own party, I regret to say, still willing that the American people shall be subjected to this vicious system of taxation. It is given as an excuse that these taxes have taken away your necessity for a higher rate of tariff on imports. That I distinctly deny. I say to-day that the revenue of this government ought not to exceed $250,000,000. I say that there is no constitutional authority in the instrument to take from the pockets of the people one dollar in excess of the amount necessary to an economical administration of public affairs." [Prolonged and vociferous applause.]

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Poor Cleveland.

Gov. Cleveland was to receive callers New Year's from 12 to 2, but the crowd commenced gathering early in the day, and when the doors were thrown open there was a rush that baffled description. Women with children in their arms, rough woodchoppers, poets, journalists, lawyers, doctors, etc., were hustled about in a promiscuous mass. One wild-eyed Democrat pulled off his coat, and commenced: "You are the first and only Dem"——when he was choked off and told the governor was there to shake hands and not to listen to speeches.

Mexico at the World's Fair.

The big silver exhibit of the Chihuahua mines, of Mexico, were swung into place in the main building directly in front of Music hall Thursday evening. The exhibit weighs nearly three tons, and is valued at over $100,000. It is the largest block of silver ever cast in one crucible.

History of a Fascinating Woman.

A Toronto dispatch says: Lena De Grasse, frequently called the "Countess De Grasse" whose marriage with Cyrus Clarke Vanderventer has created such excitement in Buffalo society circles, is a native of this province, where her relatives still reside. De Grasse is an assumed name, and on account of the respectability of her parents the proper name is withheld. When about 15 years of age she was betrayed by a young man and fled to this city where she entered a disreputable house. She remained here about three years, and then went to Buffalo. There she made the acquaintance of a young married man, a son of one of Buffalo's prominent citizens, who became infatuated with her. He furnished a house, where she lived in great style, she had her own carriage and dressed in the most lavish manner. It was at this time that she got the title of the Countess. The relations of the couple became so noticeable that to avoid scandal the father of the young man in question offered Lena something like $10,000 to leave the city. She accepted the offer and returned to Toronto, and then went to New York. There she went on the stage, but soon forsook it and found her way back to Buffalo. Lena is a handsome and fascinating woman about 21 years of age, with large blue eyes, dark hair and a fine figure.

Always Two Sides to a Story.

The publication of the story of Mrs. Matilda Ralston, widow of Percy Ralston, of the Greely relief party, in which she represented that she had been heartlessly abandoned by her children and left to die in the almshouse, has brought out a stat ment from lawyer Long, the guardian of the children by the lady's first marriage to Mr. Fisher. Mr. Long says that the first part of Mrs. Ralston's story is true, but the latter is not. A friend of Mr. Fisher says that a few years after her first marriage, Mrs Fisher left her husband, having become infatuated with Ralston. Soon after Fisher died, leaving $50,000, one-half of which his wife received and the remainder went to his four children. She then left her home with Ralston, to whom she was married, but he left her after getting possession of nearly all her money, and she never saw him again. Mrs. Ralston and her oldest daughter then traveled all over the country in questionable style, spending their money extravagantly, and finally the mother was arrested for drunkenness. The two younger children whom she charges with having deserted her, say they are willing to provide for her in any home she may select, but they decline to furnish her with money to squander as she did the $30,000 within the past four years.

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RANDALL'S SOUTHERN TOUR.

His Reception in Nashville.

Randall and party arrived in Nashville Tuesday morning. The party comprised Mr. and Mrs. Randall, Congressman McAdoo, of New Jersey, with Mr. A. S. Colyear, Col. Thos. Claiborne, Hon. T. M. Bryan, jr., M. Dickinson, Capt. Pilcher and Messrs. Considine, Austin and Justi, of Nashville. The following press representatives accompanied Mr. Randall: Allan O. Myers, Cincinnati *Enquirer;* F. R. Mussey, Cincinnati *Commercial-Gazette;* S. E. Morris, Chicago *Times;* John A. Baird, Louisville *Post,* and Samuel W. Small, Atlanta *Constitution.*

An immense crowd was present to welcome the distinguished visitor. When Mr. Randall alighted from the car Gen. W. H. Jackson, brother of Senator Howell E. Jackson, stepped forward, and on the part of the reception committee, said:

"Mr. Randall, it affords me great pleasure to welcome you to the state of Tennessee and to its beautiful capital city. We are proud to welcome so distinguished a citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, as yourself. Not alone for what you have done, but also for the part you have taken in preventing others from doing that which they ought not to have done. I bid you welcome to the state of Tennessee."

Mr. Randall said: "Sir, it gives me great pleasure to be here; I know but one country and one brotherhood; I am proud to be with you."

Mayor Phillips then welcomed Mr. Randall, and tendered him the freedom of the city. Members of the committees, accompanied by Mr. Randall and party, then buentered carriages, and were conveyed to the Maxwell House, where breakfast was served.

After breakfast Mr Randall met a delegation of citizens from Huntsville, Ala. Judge Richardson, on the part of the delegation, invited Mr. Randall to extend his trip to Huntsville. Mr. Randall replied that he would be glad to do so, but as his time was limited he would be forced to decline. He said, however, that he would visit the New Orleans exposition some time within the next two months, and would then make it a point to visit Huntsville.

A committee of citizens of Chattanooga was presented, composed of Mayor Hugh Whitside, R. L. McCallum, J. L. McCallum, H. O. Ewin, and John C. Griffits. Mr. Randall returns by way of Chattanooga. The party entered carriages at 1 o'clock and drove to the residence of Mrs. Polk, where they were entertained royally. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Falls did the honors of the occasion, and made the meeting of Mrs. Polk and Mr. Randall a remarkable one. Mrs. Polk is most remarkable for physical strength and endurance, considering her age. She received her guests standing, and seemed but little fatigued through the tediousness of many introductions. Mr. Randall, upon being introduced, said it afforded Mrs. Randall and himself greater pleasure than was otherwise possible to thus meet, face to face, the widow of the distinguished statesman, patriot, and well beloved President, James K. Polk. Mrs. Polk replied that it was an equal pleasure to have the privilege of knowing one of the foremost men of the time, worthy to succeed her own lamented husband. After further conversation, Mr. Randall and party left the mansion, noted the inscription on the dead President's tomb, took carriages, were driven to the Tennessee Cotton mills and other places of interest about the city. Mr. Randall dined at the residence of A. S. Colyar at 4 p. m. At night he spoke to the largest audience ever assembled in the Grand Opera house, which was packed to the walls on every floor, galleries, parquette and dress circle, with a large number on the stage, many unable to get standing room. The distinguished guest was introduced by A. S. Colyer, editor of the *American,* who said this is the outpouring of people was to do honor to a distinguished public servant, but more especially to honor fidelity to public trusts in a long and useful career. it was an indication that the people were never so ready as now to recognize fidelity in the public service, and the distinguished citizen of the county who would now address them, throughout his career had never broken one pledge to the people who entrusted him.

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BUSINESS MATTERS.

The St. Louis *Age of Steel* publishes over 200 letters from prominent manufacturers from all parts of the country—furnace men, dealers in iron working machinery, steam engine builders and editors of trade papers on the state of trade for the past year, and the prospects for the next six months. Taking the whole country together the volume of sales in these branches in 1884 does not differ materially from those of 1883. There was, however, a depreciation of value in the neighborhood of 16 per cent., so that the margin of profit and aggregate sales were smaller than in '83. The extensions of plant and improvement of facilities for manufacturing were also less than for the previous year. Manufacturers generally take a hopeful view of the future for the following reasons. The value of raw materials and of manufactured products are now at the low point and further depreciation is impossible. The stocks in the country are unusually light, and inquiries for spring delivery are numerous. The production of pig iron in the United States during the past year is about 10 per cent. less than in 1883. The coke and charcoal furnaces in the South, having an annual productive capacity of 920,000 tons per annum, are not now making above 8,000 tons a week.

The general movement of merchandise throughout the United States as reported by special telegrams to *Bradstreets,* has not specially improved during the week. The wool trade has been fairly active for the season and the movement of buyers indicate increased confidence. No material change in values. The breadstuffs market has experienced a marked change. Bulls are in charge and representatives of that side of the market in New York declare that they have got control of "all the outlying wheat in the country," that "the visible supply will hereafter decline steadily; that wheat has sold long enough at a point below the cost of production, and that an era of higher prices will therefore set in." The quarterly report of the stocks of wheat and flour at London and Liverpool on an equivalent with bushels of wheat lends emphasis to this view.

The Wall street stock exchange dealt in billions last year. The par value of all kinds of securities handled by them was $1,011,600,070.90, which would net to the members of the exchange an average of over $10,000 in commissions. The report shows that 25,062,500 bales of cotton were sold on 'Change, and when it is known that the actual cotton crop of 1884 was only 48,- 000,000 bales, the enormity of the speculating can be seen.

The annual report of *Bradstreet's* shows that the year which has just closed has been a disastrous one in point of failures in America. Throughout the country there were 10,935 failures, the liabilities in the aggregate being $226,643,427, an increase in numbers over those during the preceding year of 1,784, or about 20 per cent. The liabilities of the year amount to over $228,- 000,000 as against $172,874,172 in 1883. Of the number of failures reported the greatest number occurred in the Western states, where 3,335 firms went by the board, with aggregate liabilities of $54,872,983. The Middle states show 2,262 failures, with liabilities of $112,560,000, and the Eastern states 1,575 failures, with liabilities of $17,223,831. The least failures occurred in the Pacific states and territories, numbering 1,341, with total liabilities of $15,071,966. New York and Brooklyn had more failures than any other cities in the Union, 718 being reported, with liabilities of $77,875,721. The next city is Chicago, with 329 failures, $5,946,986 liabilities, and the city most fortunate is St. Louis, where only 80 failures occurred, with $5,849,456 liabilities. In the Dominion of Canada there are reported 327 failures during the year, with aggregate liabilities of $19,191,356.

Etzel, Hutchinson & Co., St. Louis, dealers in toys and notions, have failed. Liabilities about $100,000; assets, $57,000. The firm confessed judgment in favor of the German Savings bank for $25,350.

The Municipal Muddle in New York.

The only new developments in the local political chaos Friday was in the shape of a proposition offered by counsel Col. E. T. Wood, who was appointed corporation counsel by President of the Board of Aldermen Kirk, who acted as Mayor between the hours of midnight, December 31, until noon, January 1. Messrs. Wood Levy and Field, of which Sewell Gee, Ellis and Hugh L. Cole, as counsel for Col. Wood, offered to enter into an agreed case and present it to the general term of the Supreme court. The unsuccessful party can appeal the case and have a decision by the end of this month.

Col. Wood's representatives say that if the proposition is accepted their principal will take no part in the boards asserting his rights in the matter of the corporation counselship until the final decision is reached. LaCombe said he would probably make known his answer to-day.

Mayor Grace received many callers Friday. He made no important appointments. Those who looked for confirmation of many aldermen or of Mayor Edson for contempt of court, in ignoring Judge Beache's injunction, were disappointed. Judge Truax's decision on the validity of that same injunction is anxiously awaited.

At 12:30 Thursday morning Alderman Kirk was sworn in as mayor by Judge Donohue, of the Supreme court. Mr. Kirk said he had obtained evidence from prominent judges, to the effect that his title could not be impeached. He said he intended to appoint a gentleman as corporation counsel who was not a politician. He claimed the injunction served on him as alderman could not affect him as mayor.

The Tammany men and so-called "machine" Republicans were out in force in the assembly district, as corporation Counsel, and James M. Leddy, another Tammany man, as his own chief clerk. Both gentlemen qualified immediately. Col. Wood then went over to the office of Corporation Counsel Lacombe and made formal demand for possession of the office. Lacombe declined to surrender, and Wood retired.

At 12:46 Mayor-elect Grace entered the Mayor's office, which was crowded with Grace's friends. The new Mayor made a brief address and assumed the duties.

Herbert O. Thompson says he will make no opposition to Mr. Squire, when the new commissioner of Public Works comes to take possession of the department.

Corporation Counsel Lacombe notified Mayor Grace of Col. Wood's demand upon him, and asked protection. Thereupon the Mayor ordered a detail of police sufficient to secure the corporation counsel in peaceable and undisturbed possession of his office, and to preserve the property and records of the city from interference by any person. The police remained on guard all night.

Another complication has arisen by the election of Alderman Waite to the presidency of the board, in the absence of Alderman Kirk. Waite

his opinion that Cleveland intends to enforce the civil service law. He says:

"Pres. Arthur's hearty and magnanimous support of this reform will make his administration as famous in history as it has made it popular among the best of his living countrymen; but it needs the equally hearty and magnanimous efforts and sacrifices of his successor and of the Democratic party in its turn to fully extirpate the accursed upas tree of the patronage system. These efforts Gov. Cleveland's letter promises, and in this light I accept it in the full breadth of its frank assertion. If it is carried out in its letter and spirit it will place the name of its author high in the list of the best presidents of the republic."

Homemade Earthquakes.

Reports are beginning to come in of earthquake shocks in this vicinity Friday night. At Brightwood, glasses were tipped from tables, and children awakened from sleep in fright. The tremor was accompanied by a noise similar to that made by a wagon drawn close to the house. In South Washington the shock was quite felt, and was at first thought to be from a heavy railroad train passing. Farmers from neighboring counties in Maryland state the shock was quite severe in the neighborhood of Silver Spring. There was a rumbling sound, and a perceptible tremor in the houses in the vicinity of Langley, Va. The trembling of the earth was plainly felt at Warrenton. The motion was from east to west, accompanied by a dull, heavy sound, and shaking of windows violently.

Want to Know All About the Congo Conference.

Mr. Herbert introduced the following preamble and resolution in the House:

"WHEREAS, It appears that the President of the United States has empowered Hon. John C. Kasson and Gen. W. S. Sanford to represent this government at what is styled an International African conference at Berlin, to consider the question of the erection and maintenance of a state in the basin of the river Congo; and, whereas, such an alliance as this conference seems to import, is a departure from the traditional policy of the government of the United States, and the House of Representatives is without official information of the reasons which may have induced the President to accredit representatives to take part in such conference; therefore be it

"*Resolved*, By the House of Representatives, that the President be requested to inform this body, if not incompatible with public interests, whether he has so accredited Hon. John A. Kasson and Gen. W. S. Sanford as delegates to represent the United States in said conference, and if so, he is respectfully requested to state the reason which impelled him to take such step. If he has so accredited said Kasson and Sanford, he is further especially requested to inform the House whether in his letter of authority to them or otherwise, there were any conditions affixed to or limitations placed upon the exercise of their authority as such delegates, and if the limitations and conditions be affixed, which such delegates must know to the conference, the limitations of their authority, or whether they appeared unconditionally and apparently with full powers to act as delegates representing the United States in the conference assembled to discuss the question of erecting and maintaining a new state on the continent of Africa; and the President is further requested to impart to the House such information as may be in his possession tending to show whether the new state to be erected and maintained by the powers taking part in the conference is to be republican or monarchial in form. The President is also respectfully requested to give his opinion as to whether the appearance of delegates from the United States in such international conference would not estop this Government to deny the rightfulness of any future alliance European sovereigns might make, to set up on the American continent governments of such form as to them might seem right, whenever the occasion for such interference might arise."

The resolutions were referred.

Judge Frelinghuysen.

There is a report that in the event of the resignation of Associate Justice Bradley of the United States supreme court, Hon. Arthur will appoint Sec. Frelinghuysen to the vacancy.

Notes.

Change at the Philadelphia mint in 1884 aggregated 52,270,000 pieces, representing a value of $16,980,000.

Mr. Reagan, of Texas, is hopeful of passing his interstate commerce bill next week, but its chances in the Senate are slim.

Chief Justice Waite's health does not improve, and he will not occupy his seat upon the U. S. court bench during the present term.

Ex-Sen. Sharon had nearly perfected the sale of 4,000,000 worth of Washington real estate, but the result of his divorce suit has caused a stay of proceedings.

Senator Mahone was attacked Friday morning by a severe chill similar to that which preceded his illness last winter, and was confined to his room all day.

Dr. D. W. Bliss, the physician in charge at the White House during the illness of Garfield, is said to be in such precarious health as to seriously alarm his friends.

M. H. Kidd has filed notice of contest for the seat of George W. Steele, Eleventh Indiana district, in the 49th Congress. Kidd charges that vote stuffing in his favor was cast out by 6 ballboxes.

The comptroller of currency declared a dividend of ten per cent. in favor of the creditors of the Richmond national bank, of Richmond, Ind., on claims amounting to $300,788.

The Senate committee on Indian affairs, on January 20, will begin an investigation of the leasing of lands on the Indian Territory and the Crow reservation by Indians to cattle men.

The state department is informed that members of the South American commission sailed from New Orleans January 1, for Venezuela and the United States of Colombia, via St. Thomas.

The redemption of national bank notes from the 3 per cent. fund during the calendar year amounted to $140,284,444, against $132,661,473 redeemed the previous year, an increase of $7,638,071.

The British postoffice has requested information from the postmaster-general in regard to the general plan of the American railway postal cars and the new system of city distribution recently put in practice by the railway mail service.

W. E. Curtis, of the Chicago *Inter Ocean*, who was nominated by the President for the secretaryship of the South American commission, has written a letter to a friend threatening Gen. Logan with dire vengeance in case the general persists in opposing his confirmation.

Delegate Brents, of Washington Territory, slipped on the ice while walking from the capitol a few days ago, and in falling broke one of the small bones of his ankle. He has been confined to his room since the accident but hopes to be able to walk out with the aid of a crutch in a week or two.

Gen. Sheridan has replied to Gen. Hazen, informing him that no official notice can be taken of the informal charges preferred against Gen. McKeever. If Gen. Hazen wishes to pursue the matter further it will be necessary for him to prefer formal charges and specifications.

Representative Laird, of Nebraska, met with a severe accident while out riding. His horse slipped on the pavement and fell, throwing him to the ground and falling upon him, breaking the right leg above the ankle. Physicians say he sustained a compound fracture of the limb.

The inauguration committee decided to send an invitation to Gen. Hancock to act as grand marshal at the inauguration parade. Col. Berrett, chairman of the committee, informed the committee that he had an interview with Gen. Sheridan in which the latter stated if Gen. Hancock should accept the invitation, he would be given every opportunity to attend the duties of the office.

Four years ago William H. Vanderbilt invested $50,000,000 in United States 4 per cent. bonds. Since that time he has converted $18,000,000 of these bonds into money. Financial men here say that within the past four years Vanderbilt's fortune of $230,000,000 has been cut squarely in half. In 1880 New York Central was selling at 135, Lake Shore 135, Michigan Central 112, and Canada Southern 90. Yesterday's quotations for the same stocks were 85, 61, 55 and 50, respectively. Vanderbilt's boys, including his son-in-law Twombley, have lost to him $15,000,000 alone in the last two years.

Gen. Hazen has returned to the War department the charges preferred against Sergt. Otto Holtzorth, of having rifled Lieut. Greely's papers, preferring not to order a court-martial, although requested to do so by the secretary of War. The chief Signal officer assigns as his reasons for this course that the court order by him would result in only a garrison court, with power to inflict no severer punishment than reduction to rank and short imprisonment. The charges against Holtzorth, if proven, should be followed, in the opinion of Gen. Hazen, by a more summary punishment than such a court could be able to impose.

Jacob Greenock, of Elmira, N. Y., claims he holds a patent for the mechanism known as the "soft pedal" in pianofortes, and has notified all piano manufacturers he will hold them responsible for infringement. He has brought suit against Chickering & Sons, of Boston. The matter affects a very large interest, Greenock virtually claiming a royalty on every instrument made.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Great Britain.

A dispatch from London, date January 3, 1 a. m., says:

The shock of an explosion was felt by residents of the Easton road, between St. Pancras church and Judd street. The railway runs the whole length of the Easton road underneath the roadway. A crowd speedily collected at the vent-shaft at the head of Ossulton street, from which at the time of the explosion a quantity of smoke issued. As soon as possible a number of porters were sent to the spot with lamps and appliances for clearing the line.

The shock overthrew several wayfarers on Easton road. It was with great difficulty horses were restrained from running away. Gaslights in a Gower street saloon were extinguished, the ticket collector of the station thrown from his box, and the engineer working the electric light machinery thrown from his seat three or four feet, landing on his face. Lights in other trains in the tunnel were extinguished. Passengers were greatly alarmed, and many ladies fainted. The Gower street platforms were literally strewn with persons prostrated by the shock.

At the site of the explosion there is a hole in the solid masonry about four feet from the ground, with a diameter of four feet and a depth of five or six inches. The masonry is more or less damaged for some eight feet all around the hole. The effects of this explosion correspond almost exactly with those of the explosion at Praed street station, fourteen months ago. The trains which met at the time and place of the explosion were fairly crowded with passengers. The third-class carriages suffered most. The locomotives of the two trains were not damaged.

The signal man who had charge of the wrecked signal box says the floor of the box was heaved up by the explosion, and he was half stunned. Speedily ascertaining that the signal apparatus was safe, he relit the gas and telegraphed up and down the line. The fact of the meeting of two trains at the place of the explosion is regarded as accidental. The belief is growing that some miscreant dropped an explosive, with a time fuse attached, from the earlier train proceeding to the city. Near the spot the police found a man's cap, some pieces of tow, and some burnt fragments of rags.

LATER.—A passenger on the train that left Gower street for Kings Cross Station a few minutes before the time of the explosion says he saw a man who wore an Ulster with the collar and soft side-awake hat, enter the compartment next to that in which he sat. The man carried a parcel, apparently of considerable weight, wrapped in cloth of American manufacture. Shortly after the train left Gower street, the man let down the window of the compartment with a loud slam. He got out at Farringdon street and walked away. He was then without the parcel. The passenger thought the stranger had forgotten it, and looked over the partition between the compartment and the discovered parcel was gone.

Another dynamite hoax has been perpetrated on the London public. A bag containing two pounds of iron filings, with fuse attached, was found under the arch at the Waterloo depot.

At a meeting of Nationalists in Dublin, Tuesday, Clancy said: "Any nation in the world, persecuted as this country is, would expel the English and substitute an Irish Government," and declared that the Orange-Tory reign in Ireland was over.

A dispatch from Stornoway, Scotland, says four out of the eight crofters committed to-day for trial were released on bail and escorted around the town by crowds of people accompanied by a brass band and a pipe-band. Boatmen refuse to ferry the process servers. A sheriff's officer and assistant were knocked down and severely handled by about 200 crofters at Glendale.

Henry George delivered an address at a meeting of crofters at Uig, Friday. He denounced the ministers of Free church for refusing to permit the use of their church for the holding of a meeting. The ministers, he said, sided with the landlords against the people. A resolution was adopted providing that all rents should in the future be used for the benefit of the nation.

That England levies more customs duties on its imports than any other country in Europe, even those in the ranks of protection, is proved by a statistical writer in *Vanity Fair* from the board of trade figures. For instance stating in round number the population of Russia at 83,000,000, it collected from the last statistics $79,000,000 of value; Germany, population 45,000,000, collected $24,000,000; France, population 37,500,000, collected $18,000,000; Austria, population 37,000,000, collected $8,000,000. The writer shows the percentage of duty to be far higher on the cheaper imports consumed by the poor. The answer, however, may be that these big duties do not protect anything in British production, but are imposed in the nature of a direct tax for revenue purposes.

W. E. Forster, formerly chief secretary for Ireland, has written a letter urging the necessity of more energetic action in regard to the crimes and to avoid alienating kinsmen by a negative policy which surrenders everything to Germany and France.

Dr. Andrew Clark, who is attending Gladstone, has ordered him to take for a time complete rest from work of any description.

Egypt.

Gen. Wolseley has received a small piece of paper, with Gen. Gordon's genuine seal on the back, dated Dec. 14, saying Khartoum is all right.

Four hundred of the best shots in the Sussex regiment have been selected to march to Metimmeh, across the desert. Gen. Baker is of the opinion the troops and boats will reach Khartoum within two months.

A dispatch has been received from the Mudir, stating that an Arab from the Mahdis camp had arrived at Dongola. He says the Mahdi's followers are gathered in force at Mizametnek, twelve hours' march from Omderman, they repeatedly attacked Omderman, but have been repulsed with heavy loss and compelled to retreat to Mizamtuek. Gordon came to the wells during the night, and sent armed boats to guard the wells, causing great suffering among the rebels, many of whom died of small-pox and dysentery. The Mahdi thereupon withdrew his army to Jatbara, two days from Omderman. Several tribes subsequently deserted. The Mahdi told the principal chiefs he intended to march against the Mudir of Dongola. The chiefs professed readiness to follow if in this case meant passage) that these 5,000 officials would have hardly begun their infamous work before a cry would come from all quarters of the country demanding of the American Congress a prompt repeal of the law. The law would be an open door to fraud. It would be a temptation to wild speculation, which was ruin to the country. Collins said if the opponents of the bill were fair-minded enough to give it a hearing, he would undertake to give them convincing reasons why it should become a law. The motion to suspend the rules and fix a day for consideration of the bankruptcy bill was lost—yeas 135, nays 75—not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. King introduced a bill appropriating $7,000,000 for the improvement of the Mississippi river, in accordance with the plans and estimates of the Mississippi river commission. Adjourned.

For the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic.

The active friends of temperance have been busily engaged arranging an organization to tide the reform over the present critical stage. The movement culminated Friday, in Boston, when a national league, non-partisan and non-sectarian, for the suppression of the liquor traffic, was formed, a platform of principles and objects circulated. Twenty-six states were represented by prominent names.

Gen. Grant's Debts.

Gen. Sherman was asked for information as to the progress of the movement for the relief of Gen. Grant. "I can't tell you anything about it," replied Gen. Sherman, "except that the matter is in strong hands. It is a very complicated case, and no one can tell the result; but, as I said, strong men are interested in it; the very best lawyers are looking after Gen. Grant's interests, and they will be protected as far as possible."

The imports at the port of New York for the week ended Saturday were $7,486,000, of which $1,963,600 were dry goods, and $5,552,000 general merchandise. The total imports since January 1, 1884, were $424,490,000.

Among the Pittsburg firms resuming Monday were the following: Westinghouse Machine Company, Schoen & Co., 200 men; Camelria Iron Works, Johnstown, 5,000 men; Long & Co., 300 men; National Rolling Mill, McKeesport, 500 men; Oliver Bros. & Phillips, Tenth and Fifteenth street, South Side mills, 500 men; Schoenberger Mill, 300 men.

The extensive iron works of Brown, Bonnell & Co., Youngstown, which have been idle some time, have resumed in all departments. The recent reorganization made an annual settlement, and says debts will be paid in full up to January 1.

The president of the North Chicago rolling mill company states that the mills in Chicago will resume operations in about three weeks. The mills employ about 2,000 men. The statement heretofore made by the Associated Press that the owners of the mill have negotiated with employees directly, without treating with the amalgamated association as to the rate of wages is untrue, as applying to mills in Chicago.

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.

SENATE.—The Chair laid before the Senate the credentials of Justin S. Morrill, re-elected senator from Vermont; also reports of the secretary of war relating to the Portage Lake and Lake Superior ship canals, showing the interest of the state of Michigan therein. Among the petitions presented was one by Sherman from the Society of Friends, praying that provision be made in the impending Spanish treaty for settlement by arbitration of any difference that may arise between Spain and the United States. Bills introduced and referred: By Beck—To create a revenue commission. [It provides for the formation of a commission, to be composed of the secretary of the treasury, ex-officio, five members of the House of Representatives and three senators, to examine and report to Congress on or before the second Monday in December, 1885, what changes or modifications ought to be made in the existing tariff and internal revenue laws. By Voorhees—To repeal the statue of limitations on the allowance of pension arrears, and to regulate proof in pension cases; also a concurrent resolution extending the thanks of Congress to Commadore Sebley, Lt. Emery, and all officers and men of the ships Alert, Bear, Thetis, and Loch Garry, for the daring and skill displayed by them in the rescue of the survivors of the Greely Arctic expedition. Miller (Cal.) offered a resolution, which was agreed to, calling on the Secretary of State for copies of all treaties except postal treaties entered into by the United States, the ratification whereof has been exchanged, with such notes as are in his possession indicating such alteration or parts of treaties as have been changed or abrogated. Among the bills passed was one authorizing the payment of $3,100 to Peafson C. Montgomery, of Memphis, Tenn., for compensation for property taken from him and used by the United States during the late war. Maxey introduced a bill to amend the revised statutes relating to the lease of Indian lands for grazing purposes. [It requires all leases made with Indians shall be submitted to the secretary of the interior for approval, modification or rejection; it provides further that a penalty shall be imposed of $1 a head for all cattle driven upon Indian lands except under authority obtained in accord with the law. The interstate commerce bill came up, and Wilson addressed the senate. A message was received from the President transmitting the report of the secretary of the Interior regarding the present relations of the Cheyenne and Arrapahoe Indians, and recommending some provision for disarming these and other Indians, when such action was found necessary for their advancement in civilized pursuits, the Indians to be compensated for the arms taken. Executive session. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Ellis introduced a bill to incorporate the Utah, Santa Fe & Gulf railroad company. By Hunt—Appropriating $1,000,000 for the erection of a public building at New Orleans. By Cassidy—Throwing open for occupancy mineral lands situated on Indian reservations. By Cox (N. Y.)—Authorizing the Bartholdi statue to be used as a light-house; also, creating the office of assistant of the chief signal officer, with rank and pay of colonel of infantry. [The purpose is to provide a position for Lieut. Greely.] By Lefevre—Granting a pension to the widow of Commander S. Dana Green. By Hopkins—To provide for the erection of public buildings. [It appropriates $50,000,000 for the erection of public buildings in such cities as may be thought advisable by a commission consisting of the secretaries of the Treasury and Interior, postmaster general and attorney general.] By Tucker—To increase the number of judges of the United States court and prevent delay in the administration of justice. By English—To provide for the issue of one, two and five dollar silver certificates; also, to grant copyrights to citizens of foreign countries. By Breckenridge—To provide for the creation of a river and harbor department, which shall be under the charge of the commissioner of river and harbors, to be appointed by the President, at a salary of $4,500. The jurisdiction, power and duties of the commissioner shall be the same as now exercised by the chief of engineers in regard to rivers and harbors; $50,000 is appropriated, to be expended in the discretion of the commissioner in making any special examination of works under his charge. On motion of Cassidy, the rules were suspended and the Senate bill passed, appropriating $100,000 for the erection of a public building at Carson City. Hiscock moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill abolishing internal revenue tax on tobacco, cigars, snuff, cigarettes and cheroots, the special tax on dealers in tobacco, and the tax on distilled liquors used for medicinal and manufacturing purposes. Hoge—yeas 77; nays 18. Keifer moved to suspend the rules and take from the Speaker's table the Mexican pension bill and concur in all the Senate amendments thereto. Hammond demanded a second, and the House—98 to 68—seconded the motion. Hammond, in opposition to the motion, said the Mexican pension bill which passed the House he heartily opposed. The motion had engrafted upon it amendments to pension all Federal soldiers of the late war. He did not know how much this would take from the treasury, but it would entail upon the people an immense burden of taxation. Bayne argued that new was presented the last opportunity to pass the bill. Cutcheon supported the bill as a matter of justice to Mexican veterans and soldiers of the late war. Reifer and J. L. Taylor (Ohio) characterized as extravagant the estimates of the amount to be taken out of the treasury by the bill, and maintained it would not require an appropriation of more than $17,000,000 annually to meet its provisions. Warner (Ohio) held that the principle of the bill, if followed out, would result in an expenditure of not less than $25,500,000,000. The principle was the same as that of pensions was dangerous. The motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments was lost—yeas, 129; nays, 85—not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. Collins moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution making the Senate bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy, continuing the special order for Thursday, January 22. Willis demanded a second, which was ordered—119 to 51. Willis (Ky.) said this bill was a reproduction of the old law which had been repealed. It was a bill which three years ago had been repudiated by the British parliament. He predicted that if the House passed the bill and consideration (a motion to secure final passage) that these 5,000 officials would have hardly begun their infamous work before a cry would come from all quarters of the country demanding of the American Congress a prompt repeal of the law. The law would be an open door to fraud. It would be a temptation to wild speculation, which was ruin to the country. Collins said if the opponents of the bill were fair-minded enough to give it a hearing, he would undertake to give them convincing reasons why it should become a law. The motion to suspend the rules and fix a day for consideration of the bankruptcy bill was lost—yeas 135, nays 75—not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. King introduced a bill appropriating $7,000,000 for the improvement of the Mississippi river, in accordance with the plans and estimates of the Mississippi river commission. Adjourned.

Market Column.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S BUSINESS.

Financial.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 31, 1884.

The following is the statement of the New York banks for the week ending Saturday:

Loans, increase	$2,013,600
Specie, decrease	302,000
Legal tenders, increase	764,000
Deposits, increase	5,544,000
Circulation, decrease	219,000
Reserve, decrease	934,000

The banks hold $40,600,000 in excess of legal requirements.

To-day's reports up to the latest hour by telegraph to the BLADE say money is loaning at 1@2 ₱ cent. Bar silver, 108. Stocks continue strong and higher.

Government bonds—3s, 101; 4½s, 112½; 4s, 121½. Pacific 6s, of '95, 124.

The following will show the change in Government bonds during the past week:

	Jan. 6.	Dec. 30.
4½'s coupons	112½	113
4's coupons	121½	123¾
3½'s registered	101	101½
Pacific 6's, '95	124	124

TRADE.

There has been no marked improvement in general trade within the week just closed. There is a steady feeling in most things, with the exception of wheat and provisions, in which there has been an advance. However, there is a growing strength in various departments, and confidence is being restored in a way that promises to result in more activity in the near future.

THE MARKETS.

On Tuesday of last week No. 2 Red wheat brought 75c in this market; on Wednesday it touched 75¾c; on Thursday no trading was done; on Friday 76c was the price; on Saturday it rose to 77½c, and on Monday it jumped to 82c, showing an improvement during the week of 7c.

Within the week just closed the wheat markets of the United States exhibited more life than for a length of time previously. Prices were a little irregular, but gained in strength each succeeding day, with the exception of Wednesday, when futures closed weak. The market on Monday was strong and closed sharply higher. Cash wheat during the week advanced 7c. For future delivery January wheat rose 6¾c, February 7c, and May 5¾c. Advices from Europe were favorable to an improvement in America, and from present appearances there is likely to be a fair export demand. The belief is steadily gaining strength in the minds of business men that the general trade of 1885 will be of good proportions. This, coupled with the fact that there is a large amount of idle capital in the country, induces investment in wheat, which promises a better return than bank deposits or Government bonds. The upward tendency in wheat is looked upon as the precessor of an improved condition of trade. Confidence restored in the trade, leads to confidence in all other branches of business, which must result in a better condition of affairs all around. Wild speculation may not be anticipated. Wheat may be pushed beyond its proper value, but the hard facts of supply and demand will eventually adjust the price. There may soon come a break, but at present values are not too high, and a downward turn will be followed by a reaction.

Corn during the week did not sympathize to a marked degree with wheat, although on Monday the market was a little higher.

Toledo Market.

At to-day's session of the Toledo Produce Exchange cash wheat opened without strength, but at first declined. Regular No. 2 went lower, while soft No. 2 was about unchanged. The volume of trade was less than on yesterday.

Sales No 2 Red Wheat to-day	15,000
" " yesterday	50,000

No 2 Red Wheat, regular, 80½c, 1½c decline; No 2 soft Red Lake Shore, 81c and 1c closer No. 2 soft Red Wheat, 80c; No 3 Red Wheat, 85c, no alteration; No 2 soft Red in "Union," 80c; No 3 soft Red Wheat, 80c; Lake Shore, 83c.

For future delivery, No. 2 Red wheat was pretty much neglected in all months excepting May, in which a large business was done. Prices were irregular for May, with a slight weakness just at the close, and lower than on yesterday.

	Jan. bu.	Feb. bu.	Mar. bu.	Apr. bu.
Sales to-day	5000	.....	257,000	.....
Sales yesterday	110000	99,000	370,00	.....

Seller February, 82c, 1c lower; May, 85¾c, touched 86c, and finally closed at 85⅞c, 1½c decline. No. 2 soft red, May delivery, 92½c.

Cash Corn—Moderate sales of lower grades. Prices higher.

Sales cash corn to-day	5,500 bu.
Sales cash corn yes erday	15,000 bu.

No 3 Yellow Corn, 41c; No 3 corn, 40½c, 1½c up.

Oats—Neglected.

Clover Seed—Sales, 100 bags; market steady but higher; prime seed, $4.65, 15c up; seller February, $4.65.

Dressed Hogs—Sales 67 head, all weights, at yesterday's price, $5.10.

General Produce.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 6.—Oil—Market dull and heavy; opened at 74½c, advanced to 74¾c, declined to 73½c and recovered at 1 o'clock to 73¾c. The total runs of Production of Thorn Creek wells was 5,263 barrels.

BUFFALO, Jan. 6.—Wheat steady and quiet; 10,000 bushels No 1 hard spring, 95. Corn quiet and scarce; 3 cars No 2 yellow at 46c. Oats nominally at 29½c for No 2 white western, on track.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 5—Wheat—Market higher; No 2 red, 76½c bid, 78½c asked, cash; January, —c; February, 57¾@58c; May, 61¾@62½c. Corn—Market steady; cash, 32¼@27½c; January, 25½@25¾c; February, 25½@25¾c; March, 25½c bid, 27½c asked; May, 28½c. Oats dull and nominal at 24c bid cash, 27½c asked.

DETROIT, Jan. 6.—Wheat quiet and steady; No 1 white, 80½c cash and January; 81¼c February; 83½c March; 91¼c May; No. 2 Red, 77c cash and January; 80½c asked February; 90½c, nominal, March; 86c May; No. 3 Red, 75c; Michigan soft No 2 red, 82c. Corn—No 2, cash, at 43c; Mixed,—c. Oats—No 2 white, 31½c; No 2, 31c; light mixed 30c asked.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6.—Flour strong with an upward tendency; family, $3 75@4 00; fancy, $4 10@4 25. Wheat strong and higher at 82@86c. Corn in fair demand and higher; No 2 mixed, 41c. Oats held firmly; 30c asked. Rye firm and scarce at 57@58c. Barley in good demand and firm; extra No. 3 fall at 70c. Provisions easier and ½c lower. Pork at $11 75. Lard at 6 87½@7 00. Bulk meats at 4 75@5 25c. Bacon at 5 75@7 25c. Whisky at 112c.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5.—Flour firm; Ohio, $3 00@4 50; Western and Pennsylvania superfine, $2 25@2 50; do extra, $2 50@3 00; St. Louis and Southern Illinois, $4 75@4 50; winter patent, $4 00@5 12½; Minnesota patent, $4 50@4 75; spring patent, $4 75@5 00. Wheat excited and very strong under light offerings and active covering demand from shorts; No. 2 red, January, 80½@80¾c. Corn in good demand; No. 2 mixed, 42½@43c. Corn in good demand; No. 3 mixed, —; steamer No 2 mixed and yellow, 40½@40¾c; Oats in good demand; No. 2 mixed, 32½@32c; No. 3 white, 34½@35c; No. 2 white, 36½@37c; No. 1 white, 36c.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—Wheat active and very unsettled; rose to within 94c of the top prices of yesterday, but fell back 2c and closed a shade firmer at 79½c cash and January; 79¾c February; 80½c March; —April; 80½c May. Oats a shade easier; 29½c cash; 29½c January; 29¾c February; —c March; —April; Rye firmer at 57½c. Barley—No trading; nominal at 66c. Flax seed s rong at 138@139c. Whisky at 113c. Pork lower; $11 67½ January; $11 70 February; $11 85 March; $— May. Lard lower; $6 80 January; $— February; $7 05@7 07½ March; $— April; $— May.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Flour—Sales, 13,000 bbls; market firm and less active. Wheat—Market opened heavy and 3@4c lower; later rallied strongly and recovered part of the decline; less doing; No 2 White, 99½c; steamer No. 2 red, January, 93¾@94c; 1,208,000bu do February, 92¾@93¾c; 466,000 bu do March, 94¾@95¾c; 129,000 bu do April, 96¾@97c; 1,040,000 bu do May, 97½@98¾c. Corn—Market 1@1½c lower and less doing; No 2 western spot, 50@50½c; futures, 47¾@48⅛c; sales, 824,000 bu. Oats—Market lower; western, 34@40c; sales, 145,000 bu. Beef quiet and steady; new extra mess, $11 50@12 00; family, $12 00@13 00. Lard dull and lower; steam rendered at $7 20. Butter firm; western, 19@34. Cheese steady at 10@13½c. Sugar quiet and steady. Molasses firm. Petroleum steady. Rice firm. Coffee quiet and steady. Freights dull.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 6.—Flour—Market firm and in good inquiry. Howard street and western superfinee, $2 50@2 75; extra, $3 00@3 50; family, $3 75@4 50. Wheat—Western easier and active; No. 2 winter, red, spot, 90@90½c; fresh January, —; February, 89¾@90c; March, 91¾@92c; May, 96@96⅛. Corn—Western steady; mixed, spot, 49¼@49½c; January, 49¼@49½c; February, 48¾@48¾c; March, —c. Oats firm and in good demand; Pennsylvania, —c; western white, 34@36c; mixed, 32@34c. Rye nominally higher at 64@66c. Hay—prime to choice Pennsylvania, $—. Provisions steady and quiet; mess pork, $12 75. Bulk meats—shoulders and clear ribs, packed, $6 00@7 00. Bacon—shoulders, $—; clear rib sides, $8 50; hams, $11 75@12 75. Lard, refined, $8 25. Butter unchanged; choice western packed, —c; creamery, —c. Eggs unchanged at —c. Rimed, —c. Petroleum—refined, —. Coffee—Rio cargoes, ordinary to fair, —c. Sugar—A soft, —c. Copper, refined, quiet at 10¾@10¾c. Whisky steady at 113@113c. Freights to Liverpool, per steamer, quiet; cotton, 15-64d; flour, 1s 6d; grain, 6½d.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 6. Flour — Firm; Wheat lower, active; very unsettled; closing 1½c below yesterday; No. 2 red, 80½@80¾c; closing inside cash and January; closing inside February; 80¾@81c; closing 90½c February; 95¾@96¼; closing at 95¾@95c May. Corn lower, unsettled, 35¾@34 cash, 33¾@35c January; 32¾@34c February; 31¾@32c May. Barley easy, 27½c asked; May, 48½c. Oats dull and nominal at 24c bid cash, 27½c asked.

DETROIT, Jan. 6.—Wheat quiet and steady; No 1 white, 80½c cash and January; 81¼c February; 83½c March; 91¼c May; No. 2 Red, 77c cash and January; 80½c asked February; 90½c, nominal, March; 86c May; No. 3 Red, 75c; Michigan soft No 2 red, 82c. Corn—No 2, cash, at 43c; Mixed,—c. Oats—No 2 white, 31½c; No 2, 31c; light mixed 30c asked.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6.—Flour strong with an upward tendency; family, $3 75@4 00; fancy, $4 10@4 25. Wheat strong and higher at 82@86c. Corn in fair demand and higher; No 2 mixed, 41c. Oats held firmly; 30c asked. Rye firm and scarce at 57@58c. Barley in good demand and firm; extra No. 3 fall at 70c. Provisions easier and ½c lower. Pork at $11 75. Lard at 6 87½@7 00. Bulk meats at 4 75@5 25c. Bacon at 5 75@7 25c. Whisky at 112c.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5.—Flour firm; Ohio, $3 00@4 50; Western and Pennsylvania superfine, $2 25@2 50; do extra, $2 50@3 00; St. Louis and Southern Illinois, $4 75@4 50; winter patent, $4 00@5 12½; Minnesota patent, $4 50@4 75; spring patent, $4 75@5 00. Wheat excited and very strong under light offerings and active covering demand from shorts; No. 2 red, January, 80½@80¾c. Corn in good demand; No. 2 mixed, 42½@43c. Corn in good demand; No. 3 mixed, —; steamer No 2 mixed and yellow, 40½@40¾c; Oats in good demand; No. 2 mixed, 32½@32c; No. 3 white, 34½@35c; No. 2 white, 36½@37c; No. 1 white, 36c.

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BALTIMORE, Jan. 6.—Flour—Market firm and in good inquiry. Howard street and western superfinee, $2 50@2 75; extra, $3 00@3 50; family, $3 75@4 50. Wheat—Western easier and active; No. 2 winter, red, spot, 90@90½c; fresh January, —; February, 89¾@90c; March, 91¾@92c; May, 96@96⅛. Corn—Western steady; mixed, spot, 49¼@49½c; January, 49¼@49½c; February, 48¾@48¾c; March, —c. Oats firm and in good demand; Pennsylvania, —c; western white, 34@36c; mixed, 32@34c. Rye nominally higher at 64@66c. Hay—prime to choice Pennsylvania, $—. Provisions steady and quiet; mess pork, $12 75. Bulk meats—shoulders and clear ribs, packed, $6 00@7 00. Bacon—shoulders, $—; clear rib sides, $8 50; hams, $11 75@12 75. Lard, refined, $8 25. Butter unchanged; choice western packed, —c; creamery, —c. Eggs unchanged at —c. Rimed, —c. Petroleum—refined, —. Coffee—Rio cargoes, ordinary to fair, —c. Sugar—A soft, —c. Copper, refined, quiet at 10¾@10¾c. Whisky steady at 113@113c. Freights to Liverpool, per steamer, quiet; cotton, 15-64d; flour, 1s 6d; grain, 6½d.

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